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AUTHOR	Bouffez, Francoise; Grousseaud, Annette
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ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted in July 1977 of 38 Centers of International Serials Data System (ISDS) and of national bibliographic agencies or comparable bodies in the same countries to study the various aspects of the identification and description of standardized bibliographic data by the ISDS and the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials (ISBD). Nine requests for information were also submitted to countries considering ISDS membership. Analysis of the survey and materials returned with the questionnaires are reported in five chapters: (1) bibliographic information sources available for establishing an ISDS national center and serial control methods, including both primary and secondary sources and an appraisal of bibliographic control by country; (2) establishment of ISDS Centers, reviewing structure, background, and location selection; (3) functioning of the centers in terms of personnel and internal organization; (4) a comparative study of the handling of serials by ISDC centers and national bibliographic agencies (NBA); and (5) objectives of the national centers and roles of the NBA and the ISDS network. Provided are a glossary of acronyms and abbreviations, 12 tables, and 9 annexes (diagrams and charts). (RBF)

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COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE HANDLING OF SERIALS BY ISDS CENTRES AND NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES

Prepared by

Françoise Bouffez and Annette Grousseaud

May 1980

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

AACR	Anglo-American cataloguing rules
ASRPI	Avtomatizirovannaja sistema registracii periodičeskih izdanij (Automated Serials Registration System)
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BNB	British National Bibliography
BUCOP	British Union Catalogue Of Periodicals
CAICYT	Centro argentino de información científica y technológica
CAS	Chemical Abstracts Service
CASCADE	Content And Source of CAtalogue Data for local usE
CIP	Cataloguing-In-Publication
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
COM	Computer Output on Microfilm
CONSER	Co-operative Conversion of Serials project
CRO	Copyright Office
DDC	Dewey Decimal Classification
GOST	Gosudarstvennyj obščestvennyj standart
GPO	Government Printing Office (United States of America)
IBICT	Instituto brasileiro de informação em ciência e tecnologia
IC (or ISDS/IC)	ISDS International Centre
ICFES	Instituto colombiano para el fomento de la educación
ICSU/AB	International Council of Scientific Unions/Abstracting Board
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations
IPN	Internal Processing Number
ISBD	International Standard Bibliographic Description
ISBD(M)	International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographs
ISBD(S)	International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials
ISDS	International Serials Data System
ISDS/SEA	ISDS Regional Centre for South-East Asia

ISO	International organization for Standardization
ISBN	International Standard Book Number
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
LC	Library of Congress, Washington
LD	Legal Deposit
MARC/S	Machine Readable Cataloguing for Serials
MCNTI	Meždunarodnyj centr naučnoj i tehničeskoj informacii (International Scientific and Technical Information Centre, Moscow)
NAL	National Agricultural Library, United States of America
NB	National Bibliography
NBA	National Bibliographic Agency
NBC	National Bibliographic Centre
NC	National Centre (ISDS)
NDL	National Diet Library, Japon
NL	National Library
NLM	National Library of Medicine, United States of America
NSDC (or UK/NSDC)	National Serials Data Centre, United Kingdom
NSDP	National Serials Data Program, United States of America
NST	New Serial Titles
OCLC	Ohio College Library Center
OJ	Official Journals
OP	Official Publications
PES	Publications en Série
RAK	Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung
RC	Regional Centre (ISDS)
UBC	Universal Bibliographic Control
UDC	Universal Decimal Classification

INTRODUCTION

At the Lausanne meeting in 1976, the serials section of IFLA included in its programme a comparative study on "The Handling of Serials by ISDS Centres and National Bibliographic Agencies". This study was to be approached in the context of universal bibliographic control, which is the objective of a policy of promoting world-wide interchange.

The need to study the various aspects of the identification and description of standardized bibliographic data has arisen from the fact that two automated systems specifically designed to improve serials handling have recently appeared on the international scene.

I. The ISDS (International Serials Data System)

The ISDS was established in 1971 after a preparatory study undertaken in 1967 by Unesco and the ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions) on the feasibility of a world science information system. It represented an attempt to reconcile the different identification methods used by publishers, libraries and abstracting services, which are anxious to find a solution to the difficulties posed by serials control.

The system was introduced with the object of establishing and disseminating a "registry of world serial publications, covering the full range of recorded knowledge ...".(1) Its instruments were provided by the adoption of a MARC/S machine format and the definition of a small number of elements which are useful for identification (such as the ISSN, the unique standard international code and the key-title). The system is supported by a network of centres which handle information gathered at national level and pass it on to the International Centre.

II. The ISBD(S) (International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials)

The IFLA working parties, for their part, developed the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials, designed to facilitate international catalogue data interchange. The definitive version (published in 1977) sets out basic guidelines for the revision and standardization of national cataloguing rules.

The ISBD(S) is more detailed in its approach than the ISDS and can be used in connection with a large number of bibliographic activities. It also specifies the elements needed for complete serials description, with the exception of the heading, and lays down the order in which they are to be listed. It simplifies their presentation by means of significant punctuation which facilitates machine cataloguing.

The ISBD(S) system involves establishing a bibliographic record covering eight fields. The last field is set aside for the ISSN and the key-title, thus ensuring a certain degree of compatibility with the ISDS.

The preparation of officially recognized records in accordance with the ISBD(S) or according to the national rules is the responsibility of the National Bibliographic Agencies. These bodies may be university libraries, scientific institutes or documentation centres, according to the various national practices and systems. However, the most useful arrangement is generally for the records to be prepared under the direction of national libraries which receive publications on legal deposit.

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(1) Guidelines for ISDS. Introduction.

The national libraries are also able to provide back-up facilities for other activities. In this sense, their bibliographic and cataloguing services often make them ideal locations for new ISDS centres. In each country, their integration cannot fail to influence the design of the periodicals data collection system and the development of cataloguing operations.

How does this dual approach to handling actually work? Should countries that are making an effort to implement these two standards, which clearly distinguish between bibliographic identification and description, take on the costly amount of extra work involved in parallel records? Is there not a real danger that two types of cataloguing will develop, with the documentation centres applying the ISDS system and the major libraries and national bibliographic agencies applying the ISBD system? Would it not be worth while to strengthen ties and narrow down differences between the two systems so that they will both tend towards the same goal?

This study on "The Handling of Serials by ISDS Centres and National Bibliographic Agencies" represents an attempt to answer these questions on the basis of an analysis of the replies to questionnaires sent out in July 1977 to the 38 centres which then belonged to the ISDS and to the national bibliographic agencies (or comparable bodies) in the same countries.(1) Furthermore, nine requests for information were sent to countries considering membership, a number of which subsequently joined the organization.(2)

The information gathered was analysed and classified. In most cases, it was possible to work out the meaning of replies which were not immediately clear from reports, booklets, organizational charts and explanatory notes which were returned with the questionnaires. We have consulted documents from the different meetings of the ISDS - Committee of Experts, meetings of the centre directors and the governing board - made available to us by the ISDS international centre and a number of articles on the subject published in the professional press. This material has enabled us to follow the development of the system during the early years of its existence and the development of bibliography in general.

The report seeks to summarize and harmonize these documents. Chapter 1 studies the primary bibliographic sources of information on serials (legal deposit, copyright, publishers) and the secondary bibliographic sources (national bibliography) which supply or utilize the bibliographic systems, and their contribution to the universal bibliographic control of serials. It also appraises the effectiveness of the various systems used.

In the context of such bibliographic activities, the centres create and seek a framework which is suitable for their facilities (Chapter 2); a study is made of their operational conditions in Chapter 3 (personnel, internal organization) and of the guidelines laid down for their work. Chapter 4 is devoted to a comparative study of the handling of serials by the national centres and national bibliographies (which may or may not have computer-based operations). Finally, the aims of the centres are compared with the principles of universal bibliographic control (Chapter 5) and the respective roles of the centres and the national bibliographic agencies at national and international level are examined in terms of the collection, standardization and dissemination of serials data.

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(1) The table at the end of the Introduction contains a list of the countries to which questionnaires were sent and indicates those countries which did, or did not, reply.

(2) Idem. Reference should be made to the questionnaires sent to the ISDS centres and the national bibliographic agencies.

Lastly, we must express our gratitude to our correspondents in all the countries which agreed to provide us with information and answered our questions, so making a valuable contribution to this study. In particular, we would like to thank Madame Rosenbaum who made the international centre's documentation available to us and Mademoiselle Bossuat who agreed to supervise this study, encouraged us at every stage and spared no pains in helping us to complete it.

SURVEY ON THE HANDLING OF SERIALS
by the
ISDS CENTRES AND THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES

Questionnaires sent in July 1977 to	ISDS centres	NBA or comparable bodies
Argentina	X	0 (2)
Australia	X	X (1)
Austria	X	X (1)
Brazil	X	X
Bulgaria	X	X (1)
Canada	X	X
Colombia	X	0 (2)
Cuba	0 (2)	0 (2)
Czechoslovakia	0 (3)	X
Denmark	X	X
Finland	X	X
France	X	X
German Democratic Republic	X	X
Germany, Federal Republic of	X	0 (2)
Hungary	X	X
Indonesia	X	X
Ireland	X	- (4)
Italy	X	X (1)
Japan	X	X
Malaysia	X	X
Mongolia	0 (2)	0 (2)
Netherlands	0 (2)	0 (2)
New Zealand	X	X
Nigeria	X	X
Norway	0 (2)	0 (2)
Philippines	- (3)	X
Poland	X	X
Singapore	X	X
Sweden	X	0 (2)
Thailand (national centre)	(X	X
Thailand (regional centre)	(	
Tunisia	X	0
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (national centre)	X	X
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (regional centre)	0 (2)	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	X	X
United States of America	X	- (5)
Uruguay	0 (2)	0 (2)
Yugoslavia	0 (2)	0 (2)
Requests for information (to centres recently established or currently negotiating membership)		
India	X	
Israel	X	
Morocco, Mexico, Senegal, Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0	
Replies obtained: ISDS 75% NBA 63%	30 out of 40	23 out of 36

(1) One reply to two questionnaires.
(2) Reminders sent in October 1977 and/or April-May 1978.
(3) "The reply has reference to the regional centre".
(4) Registration carried out until now by the BNB.
(5) No national bibliography as such.

1. Questionnaire drawn up for the ISDS centres

A STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISDS CENTRES AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES

A. Establishment of ISDS centres throughout the world

1. Status of the centre: national (C.N.) . . . . ( )
regional (C.R.) . . . . ( )

. registers all the serials published in its area . . . . ( )

. registers the serial publications of the country in which it is established and forwards information about the other serials published within its area . . . . ( )

. collects information within its territory and forwards it to the international centre (IC) . . . . ( )

2. Date of creation of the centre . . . . ( )

3. When did the centre become operational? . . . . ( )

4. Difficulties arisen while establishing the centre (staff, financing, communications, management, etc.)

- How did you overcome them?

5. Does the agreement between the centre and the IC include special clauses?

6. Has the centre any administrative relations with the:

. national library ( )
. national bibliography ( )
. publishers ( )

- If so, what is the nature of these relations?

- If not, please describe the informal relations you established with them

7. Could you enclose the organizational chart of your centre and comment upon its structure?

. successive tasks performed by the centre (processing and checking methods, etc.)

8. Are computer facilities already at your disposal for ISDS tasks?

- If not, when do you expect them to be available?

B. Activities of national (or regional) centres and their relations with national bibliographic agencies

1. What are the sources of information for bibliographic control of serials in your country?

   (a) Legal deposit? ( )
   (If so, give a short description of the system)

   (b) Copyright?
   (If so, give a short description of the system)

   (c) The national bibliography?
   (If so, is serials control based upon:

   . legal deposit?
   . copyright?
   . data provided by publishers?)

2. Are these means sufficient to achieve complete coverage of the serials published every year?

   . Can you roughly evaluate this coverage in percentages?

3. Are ISSN assigned to all serials? ( )

   . Is there a selection? Why?

   . Criteria for selection?

   . Other serial identification and abbreviation systems used, if any (CODEN, etc.)

   . Are pseudo-ISSN used in your country for internal processing?

   . In what form?

4. What cataloguing rules does the national bibliographic agency use?

   . National rules?

   . Anglo-American cataloguing rules (AACR)?

   . ISBD(S)? → 1974 edition?
   → 1977 edition?

   . Other?

5. In establishing the records, what is the relationship between the ISDS centre and the national bibliographic agency?

   (a) Does the centre draw the elements required by ISDS from the records established by the national bibliographic agency?

   (b) Does the national bibliographic agency use the records established by the ISDS centres?

   (c) If none of the above apply, what other forms of communication have you established with the national bibliographic agency?

   (In each case, please state why you have chosen this method and whether it is satisfactory)

6. In current practice, do you consider that it is possible to comply with both ISBD(S) and ISDS requirements? ( )

   . How do you make them compatible

7. Other problems: capitalization, transliteration, romanization, left unsolved by ISO standards?

8. If, in your country, the national bibliography is automated, which is the format chosen?

   . Is it compatible with MARC/S and ISDS?

   . Or are there problems of conversion?

9. What is the frequency of exchanges between the centre and:

   . the ISDS international centre
   . national centres (please mark those with which you are in regular contact)
   . the ISBN centre responsible for the assignment of international standard book numbers?

10. Statistical data

	Periodicals	Monographic series	Total
. Number of ISSN			
- assigned to new or changed titles (from the beginning) . .			
- published in the national bibliography (per year)			
. Number of ISSN assigned retrospectively or corrected (from the beginning)			
- during current processing . . .			
- on specific requests from publishers, libraries, information centres			
. Number of ISSN assigned and not corrected yet by the national centre			
. Number of records transmitted to the IC per year			
- manual			
- machine-readable			

11. What is the form of communication adopted by the centre for its relations with the ISDS network?

C. Objectives of ISDS

1. How do you understand the role played by your centre?

   (a) In the bibliographic control of serials?

   (b) In promoting the dissemination of information about serials from a national and international point of view?

   (c) What are your plans for the future?

      . short-term plans
      . middle-term plans
      . long-term plans

2. How do you define the role of the centre with regard to the national bibliography? Is it competitive or complementary?

3. What is the contribution of the ISDS system to:

   - catalogues
   - bibliographies
   - publishing?

   (Publication of serial lists more comprehensive than those forwarded to the IC; conversion of library catalogues; union catalogues; establishment of national serial data bases; interlibrary loan; accessions; other tasks performed ...)

4. Are you faced with other important problems? How do you intend to solve them?

2. Questionnaire drawn up for the national bibliographic agencies

A STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISDS CENTRES AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES

A. Relations between national bibliographic agencies and ISDS centres

1. Has the national bibliographic agency any administrative and technical relations with the national (or regional) ISDS centre in your country? ( )

   . If so, what is the nature of these relations?

   . If not, what are the opportunities for co-operation between the national bibliographic agency and the ISDS centre? (Please describe the nature of your relationship)

2. Would you prefer:

   . close co-operation
   . occasional relations
   . independent operations?

3. Such as they are established now, do you think these contacts lead to efficient results?

B. Bibliographic control of serials

1. Is the bibliographic control of serials carried out by the national bibliographic agency through:

   . legal deposit
   . copyright
   . data provided by publishers
   . other systems?

   (Give a short description of the system)

2. Is there a selection? ( )

   . Criteria for selection?

3. Do you consider that the bibliographic coverage of serials achieved by these means is sufficient?

   . If not, what are the shortcomings of the system?

4. Does the ISDS centre use the bibliographic data gathered by the national bibliographic agency for the control of serials as its main source of information?

   . If not, what are the other sources of information available for the centre?

   . Do you consider them reliable?

C. Cataloguing rules

1. What cataloguing rules does the national bibliographic agency use?

   (a) National rules?

   (b) Anglo-American cataloguing rules (AACR)?

   (c) ISBD(S) (international standard bibliographic description for serials)?

   → 1974 edition? ( )
   → 1977 edition? ( )

   (d) Other?

2. Are they compatible with ISDS requirements?

   . How do you make them compatible?

3. Does the centre draw the elements required by ISDS from the records established by the national bibliographic agency? ( )

   . Or are these cataloguing processes quite separate?

   (In each case, state why you have chosen this method and whether it is satisfactory or not)

4. If the national bibliography is automated, what is the format chosen?

   . Is it compatible with the ISDS format or are there problems of conversion?

D. Statistical data per year

	1974	1975	1976
- Number of serial titles published per year			
- Number of serial titles received through legal deposit			

E. Role of the national bibliographic agency and of the ISDS centre

1. How do you define the respective roles of the national bibliographic agency and of the ISDS centre? Are their activities competitive or complementary?

   (a) In assuring the bibliographic control of serials?

   (b) In disseminating information on serial publications from a national and international point of view?

2. In current practice, does the ISSN prove useful to the national bibliographic agency? (Please give examples of tasks in which you already use it)

3. Do you consider that the activities of the ISDS centre bring a positive contribution to the work of the national bibliographic agency?

   . How do you look to the future development of the relations between the national bibliography and the ISDS centre?

. Have you already established plans for common action in the future? (   )

  . In what fields?

  . In what way?

CHAPTER 1

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISDS NATIONAL CENTRE AND SERIAL CONTROL METHODS

A serials identification or description system can only operate after the necessary data have been assembled as thoroughly as possible. Such data come from direct sources (legal deposit or publishing houses) or secondary sources (bibliographies, catalogues or title lists). It is not the practice to rely on any single source, since a combination of sources offers more opportunities for filling any gaps which may exist.

1.1 Primary sources

1.1.1 Legal deposit or copyright

With the exception of Indonesia and the Netherlands which are studying the conditions for introducing appropriate legislation, all ISDS member countries have regulations covering the registration of national publications: the legal deposit or, less frequently, legislative texts ensuring copyright protection, certain provisions of which lay down conditions for a legal deposit linked to copyright. On the whole, the main purpose of these laws is to assemble the intellectual production of the country and to serve as a basis for the establishment of its national bibliography.

Among the types of documents subject to the legal-deposit requirement, the relevant legislation unanimously includes periodicals or serials, at least in their traditional printed form. Furthermore, a number of regulations specify the place of deposit, and the number of copies to be delivered; they also specify whether the responsibility for complying with this requirement lies with the publisher or the printer and state the various advantages and disadvantages which may result from the choice made. The date of deposit is also important since it may determine the length of time between the appearance of a publication and its registration by the national bibliographic agency and the ISDS centre of a given country.

Serials data collection

The essential elements involved in procedures for gathering data on serials are indicated alongside the date of the most recent legislation to come into force (Annex 1, page 30). The other procedures used in conjunction or separately (voluntary deposits, direct agreements with publishers, etc.) are also shown. An initial examination of this table prompts a number of observations:

- The most usual legislation on serials registration is without question legal-deposit legislation, which has been introduced in 28 countries out of 39. In ten of these countries, the legislation has been promulgated or amended over the past decade. It is, thus, generally applicable to the various new types of data media (microfilms, microfiches, etc.) which have appeared on the market and compete with traditional printed forms.

A second group of ten or so countries (United States, United Kingdom, some Commonwealth and Latin American countries) have enacted legislation that links copyright relatively closely to the legal deposit of the protected publications.(1)

- The obligation to make the deposit falls on the publisher alone in some cases (in 14 countries) and, less frequently, on the printer alone. In very many cases, several parties are responsible for making the deposit: those who most often share this obligation (in more than half the cases) are the publisher and the printer, as well as, in some cases, the author, the producer (new terminology) or the distributor. In the event of several depositors being involved, the control of their activities by cross-checking may bring about improvements in the legal-deposit system and show up cases of failure to make the deposit.

In nearly all cases, it is the national library - or the library which traditionally fulfils this role - that receives the legal-deposit copies, generally on the same basis as other libraries, research institutes or official bodies.

Such are the legal means by which, in theory, information on serials is collected. Their effectiveness, in practice, may be evaluated through a country-by-country comparison of the degree of uniformity in the categories of documents registered. It may also be appraised in terms of the kind of control methods aimed at ensuring implementation, the seriousness of any omissions which may be discovered and the means employed to remedy them (particularly through approaches to the publishing trade, a direct source of all bibliographic information, with which a wide range of relations is being established) and, lastly, the quality of the bibliographic products obtained by processing the raw data (this being expressed approximately in terms of bibliographic coverage and speed of implementation).

A. Serials: towards a precise terminology

While it is true that serials are among the documents most frequently represented in national bibliographies after books and official publications, there is little evidence that the document group embraced by this term is comprehensively registered in all the ISDS member countries.

There are certainly internationally acceptable definitions, such as the ISDS and the ISBD(S)(2) definitions, the adoption of which might not only facilitate the compilation of statistics that are complete and consistent, but also make it possible to extend the legal-deposit system and the resulting bibliographic coverage.

In this context, Hungary underlines the importance of the role which its ISDS national centre is able to play in the introduction of the "serials" concept at national level, and also in providing a better knowledge of the various types of documents covered by this term. In the case of Poland, the adoption of this approach will afford an opportunity to improve bibliographic control of the different forms of series.

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(1) We considered it useful to illustrate this type of legislation by describing (in Annex 2, page 35) a representative case. We have chosen the American system, which has been recently revised and has only been operational since January 1978.

(2) "... a serial is a publication in print or in non-print form, issued in successive parts, usually having numerical or chronological designations, and intended to be continued indefinitely. Serials include periodicals, newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, directories, etc.), journals, memoirs, proceedings, transactions, etc. of societies and monographic series."

There is no doubt that the terminology currently used in the relevant legislation shows considerable variations, with reference being made to "newspapers", "periodicals and newspapers" or merely "periodicals", or "serials". It does not allow for any detailed description of the categories in question and a certain amount of public confusion over the nature of the resultant obligations may well be caused. Bibliographic content and the way it is handled are sometimes defined arbitrarily. In certain countries, documents appearing more than once a year are considered to be periodicals, while documents published less frequently are handled with books.

The most recent legislation seeks to put an end to any ambiguity with a view to facilitating a better understanding of the law. The "National Library Decree" of 1970 (Decree No. 29), for instance, adopted by the Federal Government of Nigeria, contains definitions of specific terms used in the decree. Similarly, in Tunisia, Decree No. 77-536 of 8 June 1977 (which establishes the general conditions for implementing law number 75-32 of 26 April 1975 promulgating the "Press Code") reflects a concern for precision, as expressed in Chapter 1 which contains a series of broad definitions, and a desire to incorporate the new media (in this connection, it is planned to register periodicals published "in any form whatever", which takes in all types of material media).

Another method involves drawing up a list of categories covered by or exempted from the legal-deposit requirement. This is done in a number of countries, including Bulgaria, Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the basis of precise lists of publications. The Canadian National Library Act (in force since 1 September 1969) also contains a number of essential definitions and the complementary regulations "respecting the deposit of books at the national library" give a list of documents exempted from the legal-deposit requirement. This list covers 14 categories in all; two of them, namely:

newspapers; and

annual reports of companies and commercial organizations;

fall within the present field of study.

This last example suggests that the extreme diversity of the documents (newspapers, internal reports, official publications falling into two categories) often arises from a certain inconsistency in registration practices. Administrative or official serials are frequently obtained through channels other than the legal-deposit system (in Australia, Thailand, the United States and Canada in particular, they are received under the terms of agreements entered into directly with the publishers). This is the only way serials are received in the Netherlands, since the country does not have a legal-deposit system.

Other solutions involve regulations which are more limited in scope and undoubtedly less effective than the legal-deposit legislation. Such solutions are the Public Decree issued by the Danish Ministry of Education to other ministries and official bodies and the letter of the Tunisian Prime Minister of 11 November 1976, inviting all ministerial departments to deposit all non-confidential administrative publications at the national library. In any case, regardless of the source employed, it is quite certain that this is an area which is particularly difficult to investigate, where complete bibliographic control can only be achieved by continual approach.

To a lesser degree, internal reports, newspapers and confidential publications are sometimes exempted from the legal-deposit requirement or covered by special registration conditions.

B. Control methods

After demarcating the subject-matter of the legal-deposit requirement - in the case of serials a multiple range of publications is involved - we turn to the control methods which range from the time-limit for depositing publications to procedures subsequently employed to make good any deficiencies in the data-gathering system and the non-compliance of those subject to the requirement.

It is worth while examining the question of the time-limit for making the deposit. In terms of the processing of the legal-deposit copies, which leads to the compilation of the bibliography and the formation of the national collections, this aspect represents an initial source of possible delays which may subsequently be reflected in the period of time between the registration of a publication and its description in the national bibliography (cf. table 3, page 25).

The table below shows, in ascending order, the notional periods between the publication date and the date of deposit in ISDS member countries for which such information is available.

DEPOSIT TIME-LIMIT

Date of publication	8 days	10 days	15 days	1 month	3 months	6 months
France (1)	Germany, Fed. Rep. of Canada Thailand	Brazil	Poland German Dem. Rep.	Australia Colombia India Ireland Japan New Zealand Nigeria Philippines Singapore United Kingdom	United States	Scandinavian countries (2)

(1) Deposit made before distribution or sale

(2) Sweden: period of three months from the end of each half-year

TABLE 1

This table shows that while France has established, through legislation in force since the Second World War (Law of 21 June 1943, amended by the decrees of 21 November 1960 and 16 January 1962) a relatively short period for making the deposit in comparison with the periods generally prescribed, the average period for the majority of countries is one month. The Scandinavian countries are an exception: the period of at least six months between publication and deposit makes the legal-deposit system unsuitable for use in connection with the preparation of the national bibliography, so that supplementary arrangements are needed.

Voluntary deposit by the publishers makes it possible to compile bibliographic records. Practices such as advance deposits, complementary agreements and CIP (Cataloguing-in-publication) which speed up the delivery of documentation, make it possible to reduce a delay which could have repercussions right down the handling chain.

- It is not enough for the deposit to be made promptly. It is also necessary to make sure that it is made effectively. Should there be any shortcomings in this connection, the States have at their disposal a whole range of procedures (some conventional, others more complex) for improving the efficiency of the deposit-system. Examples of such procedures are:

(a) Fines, which have to be geared to the desired result. If they are too light, they have no impact. If they are too heavy (Singapore), they have a dissuasive effect and so are counter-productive. In the United States, failure to make the deposit connected with copyright protection is penalized. In Uruguay, the national library assigns a legal-deposit number to each serial title; a fine is imposed if the number does not appear on the publication when distributed.

Although this is a conventional and currently widespread practice, a number of countries have reservations about introducing it, even when it is provided for in their legislation, preferring to use more persuasive methods which, in their view, will have greater long-term advantages.

(b) Deposit declarations

The deposit is sometimes accepted without any formality apart from the issue of a receipt, with demands only being made when issues of publications are discovered to be missing by chance. In other cases, a systematic check is made with the aim of establishing whether any publications have not been deposited. Requests for missing issues are then made to the publishers concerned (United Kingdom).

More often than not, dispatches must be accompanied by declarations. When the law designates several depositors, a cross-checking system provides a way of establishing who has failed to make a deposit, reaching different areas of production and ensuring a double form of control based on both sources: in France (as in Tunisia), the publishers' deposit and the printer's deposit complement each other and serve as a cross-check - enclosed with every dispatch is a declaration which is also required to accompany each title and be produced when changes of format or publication frequency are advised.

Such provisions, varying according to the degree of precision sought in the control procedures are, in particular, implemented in Hungary and Bulgaria (where two copies of a form are attached to deposited publications and the national library checks these forms against the lists of new titles supplied by publishers and the notifications of work in hand received from printers). The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics applies the same system, involving a declaration which is checked against the lists issued by printers and publishers (the latter being registered with the appropriate official departments), with control being exercised by the Federal Chamber of Books and the Chamber of Books of the State concerned.

(c) Control numbers

Many systems have been developed as part of document reception procedures and are linked to the practice of requiring declarations. A common practice is for depositors and central services to use control registers in which publications are assigned a serial number.

In Uruguay, the national library allocates control numbers to the publishers (cf. paragraph (a) above, fines) and checks on their use by reference to a central register.

Other procedures, which are more attuned to the requirements, are gradually being introduced. In Belgium, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is already used as a way of controlling the legal-deposit system. In the United States of America, the Copyright Office has introduced a place for the ISSN on its forms and is considering the inclusion of the ISSN reference on publications as an element of the copyright registration procedure.

It would seem desirable for the ISSN to be included in legislation governing the legal deposit, so as to serve as a constant point of reference throughout the serial handling chain from the time of its arrival at the place where the legal deposit is made. There would be a twofold advantage: it would become possible to extend the ISDS system and it would encourage users wishing to benefit from the various advantages and services provided as a result of registration of the ISSN number to become depositors.

Fines, declarations and the use of control numbers are all methods designed to extend the practical application of a notional legislation; declarations and the use of control numbers make a greater contribution to the effective management of the deposit system than to the discovery of bibliographic sources as yet unexplored.

1.1.2 Relations with the publishing trade

Only if relations are established with the publishing trade will it be possible to improve bibliographic coverage, reduce gaps in the legal registration procedures, obtain additional data or even, in the absence of any legislation, arrange access to bibliographic production at the same time as an alternative to the legal deposit.

Some 20 countries (cf. Annex 1, page 30) mention the existence of special relations with publishers. These may be merely occasional (New Zealand, Thailand) or may take on a more regular pattern, even involving the creation of specialized posts (the "publishers liaison assistant" in the United States of America) or an administrative unit responsible for publisher liaison (Australia).

While the publishing trade is highly structured and organized in some countries, a quite different picture is to be found in other countries. The questionnaires gathered relatively little general information on this point, but certain legislative provisions - on the choice of depositors, for example - reflect national cultural traditions. Those concerned are often all the more difficult to identify inasmuch as the functions of author and publisher or printer and publisher, for example, are not easily distinguished. The result is that it is sometimes difficult to establish any form of dialogue between the "producer" and the national bibliographic agency which is anxious to discover for its own purposes new sources of information. In Africa and South-East Asia, in particular, publishing houses are drastically short of funds and the trade is only gradually becoming organized. Publications are all the more short-lived as publishers are rarely professionals, circulations are limited and the existence of numerous vernacular languages reduces the number of potential readers. Such factors increase the risk of documents not being covered by control procedures.

(a) The national bibliographic agency and the publishers

In such a context, the activities of the national bibliographic agency are essentially aimed at identifying possible publishers with a view to registering their publications and encouraging them to become depositors by informing them of their responsibilities. Thus, the national library of Malaysia makes an effort to locate any unestablished small publishers, who generally co-operate with it. In Canada, periodicals, unlike books, are sometimes produced by publishers who are unaware of the current regulations. For this reason, the "Canadiana" Serials Acquisition Unit actively searches for new titles. In Singapore, a constant effort is made to enlist the support of publishers. The national library of Nigeria uses mass-media publicity in an effort to raise the level of awareness among publishers who are often ill-informed of their responsibilities and the potential advantages to them in the dissemination of their periodicals.

Efforts to publicize existing legislation and organize information campaigns in professional circles are also intended to make good any inadequacies in the legal-deposit system, thereby creating circumstances that favour the establishment of regular direct relations with the publishing trade. A number of typical cases may be listed:

- When certain categories of publication, such as official publications, are exempted from the legal-deposit requirement, complementary agreements with publishers provide a basis for filling any gaps which may occur (Australia, Canada, Thailand, United States of America).

- If the legal-deposit system is considered to be open to improvement in terms of its overall efficiency, prospection activities may be undertaken and new contacts established with a view to improving bibliographic coverage of areas where gaps are known to exist: publications which do not follow the normal channels, or publications of unestablished small publishers.

- When legislation lays down excessively long periods for delivering publications on legal deposit, an understanding is reached with publishers, who arrange advance deposit copies and so help to speed up the preparation of the national bibliography (Denmark, Sweden, Norway).

In cases where legislation is inneffective or the material provided under the legal-deposit system is inadequate or inaccessible, alternative approaches are developed, particularly with the aim of securing publishers' co-operation through direct agreements.

- Lastly, in countries without a legal-deposit system (Indonesia, Netherlands), the national bibliographic resources are built up through voluntary contributions on the part of the publishers. In Indonesia, despite accessions in the form of gifts or through exchanges, the present procedures are inadequate and attempts are being made to improve them by incorporating information gathered in the provinces until such time as new legislation on these matters is introduced.

(b) The ISDS centres and the publishing trade

After this list of possible combinations of primary sources of bibliographic control, particular attention should be paid to the study of relations between the ISDS centres and the publishing trade.

The activity of these centres would be inconceivable without the establishment and maintenance of permanent links with publishers. The publicity aimed at informing them of the advantages of the system and the resulting applications for the assignment of ISSN multiply opportunities for contact and favour a policy of closer co-operation, a secondary effect of which may be an improvement in legal-deposit coverage.

Through their special relationship with publishers, ISDS centres can help to bring to light information which previously went unrecorded. The French ISDS national centre believes that it has made a constructive contribution to the legal-deposit system in connection with limited circulation publications, documentary, scientific and technical publications, etc., and has given publishers the kind of motivation which the legal-deposit system has been unable to provide until now.

In its attempts to make good any inadequacies in the system, the national centre can, at the same time, encourage publishers to deposit the required copies. Direct day-to-day contact with publishers speeds up the communication of information to the benefit of not only the ISDS but the rest of the library-science community (Poland).

1.1.3 Utilization of legal-deposit publications

The legal-deposit system is not intended as a means of hoarding or accumulating a wealth of publications to no useful purpose. It has been established with a view to the possible uses to which these publications may be put and the benefits which may be derived from them.

1.1.3.1 The compilation of the national bibliography

This is the essential objective of the legal-deposit system as stated in the Recommendations of the International Congress on National Bibliographies organized by Unesco and IFLA (Paris, 12-15 September 1977).

A number of observations may give some idea of the procedures for collecting and processing bibliographic data. There is generally a certain spatial continuity between information gathering and handling operations:

- In 36 countries out of 39 (around 90 per cent),(1) the national library receives one of the legal-deposit copies. The University Library in Helsinki has traditionally served as a national library in this respect.

The Soviet Chamber of Books is a central body receiving 15,000 periodical titles from all the republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Lastly, in Indonesia, which does not as yet have either a national library or a legal-deposit system, the receipt of bibliographic material is the responsibility of a section of the "library development centre" which comes under the Department of Education and Culture.

- In 34 countries out of 39 (87 per cent), the body which receives the copies delivered on legal deposit or on a voluntary basis is also responsible for the preparation of the national bibliography. There are five exceptions in this connection:

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(1) No information was obtained on Mongolia.

Country	Body receiving the legal-deposit copy	Body responsible for the national bibliography
Denmark	The Royal Library, Stockholm	Bibliotekscentralen (central library office) on the basis of the legal-deposit copies and the copies deposited by publishers
India	National Library, Calcutta	Central Reference Library, Calcutta (1)
Ireland	National Library, Dublin	School of Librarianship (University College, Dublin)
Mexico	National Library of Mexico	Instituto de investigaciones bibliográficas (Universidad nacional autónoma de México)
Netherlands	No legal deposit system. Publications provisionally deposited at the Royal Library	The publishers (Brinkman, Sijthoff)
(1) Located in the premises of the national library		

TABLE 2

- In 31 countries out of 39 (79 per cent), the national bibliography is published by the national library. To the above exceptions we should add Colombia (Instituto Caro y Cuervo), Finland (University Library) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Chamber of Books).

Even though, by itself, the unification of the legal-deposit system and bibliographic management in no way solves all the problems involved in usefully and expeditiously processing the national bibliographic resources, it is certain that any break in the handling chain could prove to be an additional source of complications and delays. Be that as it may and whatever form the national bibliographic centre may take, there is an advantage in the bibliographic resources being processed immediately after registration in premises located near the place of deposit.

(A) Temporal continuity

The available information is unfortunately incomplete. However, it gives an idea of the average length of time involved in the production of the national bibliography from the time of delivery of a publication on legal deposit to the appearance of the corresponding bibliographic record.

Appearance of the bibliographic record after a period of:

Legal deposit: arrival

	Nigeria			
3 weeks	Japan			
1 month	Belgium,* Australia,* USSR		New Zealand	
	Canada,* United Kingdom*			
2 months	Bulgaria			
3 months	German Democratic Republic,* Brazil,* France			Thailand
4 months	Italy*	Israel	Denmark	
1 year	Cuba, Uruguay			
1½ years	Colombia			
2 years	Ireland, Malaysia,(1) Philippines, Sweden		Singapore	
3 years				

* Automated bibliographies for the "periodicals" section (handled separately or with monographs)

(1) Period established in 1974 (subsequently reduced)

TABLE 3

The promptness with which a record appears in the national bibliography is an objective sign of how well the system is working. We should note in passing that automation does not seem to be absolutely essential for speeding up the time in which a bibliographic record is produced: in the 24 countries mentioned, some of the manually produced bibliographies operate as well as the seven bibliographies which are automated in the "periodicals" section, undoubtedly because automation is a recent phenomenon and its potential advantages have not been exploited to the full.

If reference is made to the above table in an attempt to gain a rough idea of the accumulated delays between the publication of a periodical and the appearance of the corresponding record in the national bibliography, several patterns may be observed:

(a) the periods even out and are kept down to a minimum (less than 2 months: Canada, Nigeria, Japan, Australia);

(b) marked difficulties arise particularly in the compilation phase (with, in some cases, periods of more than one year elapsing before the appearance of the record), whereas the document is in theory deposited fairly soon after publication (1 month);

(c) any delay in depositing the required copies is not made up by a subsequent reduction in the bibliographic work: delays occur at several stages of production and build up; supplementary arrangements are introduced to facilitate the preparation of the national bibliography (Scandinavian countries).

(B) Use of the legal-deposit system by the national bibliography

Prompt and regular use of the legal-deposit system is hindered by various obstacles which can in theory be gauged on the basis of specific criteria (the period between publication and deposit, the period between deposit and the appearance of the corresponding record in the national bibliography). In practice, concrete results are often at variance with such predictions, as may be seen from the sample analysis of the proportion of the publications of given years described by the bibliography (cf. this chapter, part 1.2, secondary sources: the national bibliography).

How can the "efficiency" of the legal-deposit system be assessed? A source comparison of the number of serials deposited with the number of serials actually published would be unreliable. Such a comparison would be based on figures which would be either derived from the legal-deposit system or supplied by publishers and largely incompatible with other data. The problem of establishing complete coverage would merely be shifted back one stage.(1)

To the extent that the national bibliography is compiled by reference to the legal-deposit system as its primary source, the quality of the bibliographic coverage which the national bibliographic agency estimates to have been attained, may be regarded as reflecting the quality of the legal-deposit records. However, it should be borne in mind that most of these estimates are very approximate:

(a) One group of countries (the German Democratic Republic, Austria, Bulgaria) considers that it achieves complete bibliographic coverage of serials (100 per cent) through the legal-deposit system. To these countries we should add the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which has an extremely effective control system taking in both the registration of periodicals and their recording in the national bibliography. Finland (98 per cent) does not mention any particular problems in connection with the legal deposit, although the latter is not subject to any special control. Australia gives more or less the same percentage (95-98 per cent) which is achieved through a well operated deposit system, rounded off by agreements with publishers and improved by active searches for non-deposited material. Lastly, Singapore considers that it achieves 95 per cent and Tunisia gives the same kind of upper figure, although only for commercial publications.

(b) The following bracket (80-90 per cent) includes countries which consider that they achieve coverage:

which they can express numerically in the following terms:

90 per cent (Denmark), although only in the case of important serials;
Hungary, India (estimate made by the national centre);

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(1) International Congress on National Bibliographies, Paris, 12-15 September 1977. "A survey of the contents of existing national bibliographies" prepared by Richard H.A. Cheffins, Unesco, PGI-77/CONF.401/COL.4, pp. 9-10.

fluctuating between 80-90 per cent: Federal Republic of Germany in the case of publications not for general sale and commercial publications respectively;

80 per cent (United States of America, Italy, Japan, Thailand);

or which they simply judge satisfactory without being able to make any evaluation (Israel, Ireland), although some specifically state that there are gaps in the system (Canada, United Kingdom, France). In the case of Indonesia, estimated figures vary between 60 per cent and 80 per cent according to the sources; this margin of uncertainty is a sign of their weakness.

Analysis of the trends reflected in these first two groups provides ample confirmation that the quality of bibliographic coverage is related to the quality of the legal-deposit system. It also shows that the need to use other sources is sometimes a sign of the inadequacy of the legislative provisions (whether they concern control, the time-limit for depositing the required copies or the scope of the legislation in question), although it may also result from a deliberate policy of source diversification.

(c) However, the most useful information is gained from an examination of the situation in countries which have less than 80 per cent coverage (Malaysia: 78 per cent; Nigeria: 75 per cent; New Zealand: 60 per cent) or consider their registration level to be inadequate (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Brazil). The reasons given are out-of-date legislation (Brazil), deliberate disregard or genuine ignorance of the regulations (Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines), inadequate means of controlling the legal-deposit system (Czechoslovakia), the delays connected with information normally provided through other channels (Poland) or excessive delays which in turn give rise to inaccuracies and further delays (New Zealand).

The problem of the relationship between the legal-deposit system and the national bibliography is often a regional one, and the similarities between neighbouring countries are greater than the differences. South-East Asian countries or African countries experience similar difficulties.

In the Latin American countries belonging to the ISDS (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay), socio-economic, geographic or administrative factors prevent the legal-deposit system operating effectively and being used advantageously. The law is disregarded since there is no control machinery. The range of publications deposited is incomplete with the result that the bibliography is even more incomplete. Although national libraries are in all cases among the recognized depositories, they often share their responsibilities with other bodies. In Colombia, the "active" legal-deposit system on the basis of which the national bibliography is prepared (with nearly 60 per cent coverage) is the one operated by the Instituto Caro y Cuervo, and not that of the national library. In Argentina, where knowledge concerning national production is uncertain, the legal-deposit system is largely inaccessible and successive attempts to publish a national bibliography have not yet met with any notable success. In Uruguay, finally, two unco-ordinated bibliographies exist alongside each other. All the bibliographies appear some considerable time after the dates to which they refer, and the frequency of information on serials is (with the exception of Argentina) generally annual.(1)

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(1) The Brazilian bibliography appears quarterly; however serials data are provided only at the end of the year.

Examination of these extreme cases shows the need to provide sound bases for any undertaking aimed at the registration of national production. Gaps in bibliographic coverage, and the lapse of time between the appearance of serials and the corresponding record - with their international repercussions - may be regarded as symptoms and consequences of the weaknesses of the legal-deposit system.

(C) Use of the legal-deposit system by the ISDS centres

Documents are registered and catalogued according to the ISDS rules by reference to the document concerned. During a trial period, photocopies of the title pages are forwarded with a view to the establishment of the accuracy of the data on the basis of which identification is possible. This direct method of handling may be carried out immediately upon receipt of the legal-deposit copy or at the same time as or after the bibliographic cataloguing operations.

(a) The field of action of the current national bibliography is confined to the recording of new titles and title changes (and any discontinued titles); that of the ISDS is wider.

When the centres operate in the vicinity of national bibliographic agencies, they receive, like the latter, a continuous supply of information from the legal-deposit system. The use of this source involves every possible form of co-operation. Admittedly, the data elements to be extracted are not strictly the same; when they are common, they are not always similarly handled. Such arguments often warrant the adoption of virtually independent procedures or use by the centre of some of the elements extracted by the national bibliographic agency. However, the universally felt need for economy of effort leads to a search for handling procedures that are integrated to a greater or lesser degree.

Mutual advantages are derived from this exchange of information and it is frequently necessary to refer to the original document, regardless of whether this procedure involves the national bibliographic agency.

(b) It is equally necessary to refer to the original document when the activities of the ISDS centres involve them in retrospective studies outside the field of current bibliography. Checks, identifications and filiation searches necessitate consultation of periodicals received and held in national collections formed from legal-deposit copies and complete the information provided by the national bibliographic agency.

However, the relationship between the legal-deposit system and the ISDS centres is not the only possibility. When the legal-deposit system is not accessible, inadequate or non-existent, the national centre (like the national bibliographic agencies) finds alternative solutions by approaching bodies selected on account of the large number of publications which they hold, their bibliographic activities and their abundant resources (cf. Chapter 2, page 61).

The ISDS national centre may ultimately serve as a useful basis for the introduction of legal-deposit legislation. This is the case in Indonesia, where it will be given an important role in the establishment of future regulations.

The national bibliography is, as we have seen, the main product obtained from the raw data provided by the legal-deposit system or publishers. Other by-products of the activities of the ISDS/IC derived from the same sources include manual records and magnetic tapes (Denmark, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America) which serve to enrich the International Register, and various indexes in print or in preparation (in Colombia, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Japan, Nigeria, New Zealand). This list is not restrictive and there are relatively long-term plans to build up national or regional files or union catalogues, various lists, etc. It is a sign that the legal-deposit system is being used frequently and to considerable advantage, and underlines the value of the system as a means of providing unqualified support for universal bibliographic control.

ANNEX 1

SERIALS DATA SOURCES IN ISDS MEMBER COUNTRIES (or countries considering ISDS membership)
APRIL 1978

Member countries	Legal deposit (current legislation)	Legal deposit (associated with copyright)	DEPOSITORS			Place of deposit	Special agreements	OBSERVATIONS
			Publisher	Printer	Others			
ARGENTINA		1933-1957	X		Author	NL +	Relations with publishers	
AUSTRALIA		1968	X (2)	X		NL +	OP: voluntary deposit	(2) except OP - the NL conducts searches for publications not deposited by publishers
AUSTRIA	1922, 1952●		X	▲		NL +		
BRAZIL	1907, 1969 (1)		X	X	Author	NL +		(1) linked to the NL and the national bibliography /1969 → Instituto Nacional do Livro: 2nd body responsible for LD
BULGARIA	1976●			X		NL +		
CANADA	1968 (1)		X			NL +	OP: special agreements	(1) National Library Act not covering OP
COLOMBIA		1946-1961	X	X		NL +	Publishers	NL: copyright office

TABLE I

Key: ● for all material media
▫ for periodicals published and/or printed abroad
▲ printed in the country: disseminated abroad
/IB issuing bodies

CUBA		1964	X			NL		
CZECHOSLOVAKIA SLOVAKIA	1964 1973●		O	X	Postal services	NL + Martin NL		
DENMARK	1927		O	X		NL +	Publishers deposit copies (3) on a voluntary basis at the bibliotekscentralen	(3) to speed up publication of the national bibliography
FINLAND	1919 (5)			X		University library Helsinki		(5) currently being revised
FRANCE	1943 + amendments		X	X		NL +		
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	1960 (1)		X	▲	All IB	NL +		(1) National Library Act
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF	1969● (1)		X		Producers	NL		(1) National Library Act
HUNGARY	1977 (VIII, 28 KM)		X	X	Producer Importer	NL + (6)		(6) deposit in conjunction with 11 science libraries
INDIA*	X	1956	X			NL + (7)		(7) + registrar of newspapers for India (for newspapers and periodicals)

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* Membership currently being negotiated. Answered questionnaire,

INDONESIA	(8)					Bureau for libraries and book deposit	Voluntary agreement (purchase and sale)	
IRELAND		1926 m (rev. 1963)	X			NL +		
ISRAEL	1953		X			NL - UL		
ITALY	1939 (amended in 1945)		O	X		NL (Florence and Rome)		
JAPAN	1948 (amended)		X	X	Public corporate bodies	NL		
MALAYSIA	1966 and 1972 Preservation of Books Act		X (9)			NL +	X (10)	(9) many unestablished small publishers difficult to locate (10) information forwarded by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs which issues printing licences for publications
MEXICO	1957 (rev. 1965)		X			NL + and Library of Congress		
MONGOLIA	No information available							
MOROCCO	7 October 1932, amended in 1944 and 1955		X	X		General library		

NETHERLANDS						Provisional deposit at Royal Library	X	LD legislation under consideration
NEW ZEALAND		1962 (amended in 1971)	X			→ NL	X	
NIGERIA	1970• (1)		X			NL +	X	(1) National Library Act
NORWAY	1939		O	X		NL +	X (11)	(11) voluntary deposit to speed up the publication of the national bibliography
PHILIPPINES	1975 Legal and Cultural Deposit Decree No. 812	1924 and 1972•	X			NL +		Gaps: official publications
POLAND	1967 (1)		O	X		NL +	X	(1) National Library Act
SINGAPORE	1967 (rev. 1970)		X (12)	X		NL	Publishers	(12) annual printing licence to be applied for from the Ministry of Culture, under the "Newspaper and Printing Presses Act", No. 12, 1974
SWEDEN	1949		O	X	O Distributors	NL +	X	
THAILAND	1941		X	X		NL +	Publishers (in some cases)	
TUNISIA	1975• (13)		X	X	Producer Distributor	NL +		(13) Press Code

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS	1920, 1959		X	X		Federal Chamber of Books	Publishers	
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND		1911	X			NL +	Publishers	
URUGUAY	1970 (1)		O	X		NL +		
YUGOSLAVIA	1953			X		NL +		

ANNEX 2

Primary sources of bibliographic information

COPYRIGHT AND LEGAL DEPOSIT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The new legislation

On 19 October 1976, Congress passed a law revising Title 17 (Copyrights) of the United States Code.(1) The new provisions replaced the previous legislation which dated from 1909 and amended it by introducing important changes in the area of copyright protection.

The new system came into force on 1 January 1978. It is based on the common law of the States and the federal laws passed by Congress, which were hitherto distinct in scope, and represents an attempt to apply to these areas a single body of regulations. The latter now affords protection to both unpublished works which hitherto came under common law and were not the province of the Copyright Office (CRO), and published works, whether they be traditional printed publications or new material media (microfilms, sound recordings, magnetic tapes, etc.).

Copyright and legal deposit

Copyright protection is indicated on published documents by the following: the copyright symbol ©, the year of publication and the name of the owner of the copyright. The copyright owner may use the copyrighted work without first obtaining the permission of the CRO; such use is not dependent upon either the payment of registration fees, which merely secures legal or financial advantages in the event of proceedings being brought on the grounds of infringement, or upon the deposit of the publication.

While copyright is secured immediately upon the production of a work, it does not necessarily follow that the work is thereby registered with the official services. Furthermore, the copyright office, which is already overworked, makes no effort to trace potential depositors and confines itself to receiving the work of voluntary depositors. It is therefore probable, at this stage, that some serial publications escape control.

While the copyright notice © symbolizes a recognized right, its mere use is linked by law to the obligation to deposit the copyrighted work (Chapter 4, page 407) within three months after the date of publication and, with all the more reason, to the formal registration of the copyright and the payment of the specified fees which form, together with fulfilment of the above obligation, the three prerequisites for effective recognition of copyright.

Serials and copyright: the provisions

The first sections of Chapter 1 are devoted to a series of definitions which are essential to the use of precise terminology and the demarcation of the scope of the law.

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(1) United States Code, Title 17, "Copyrights", Public Law 94-553, 94th Congress.

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A new classification divides the subject-matter of copyright into five categories. Serials belong to category "TX" which covers non-dramatic literary works. This is one of the most important categories as it includes publications such as periodicals, manuals, yearbooks, catalogues, reference works, original compilations of pre-existing material, etc., regardless of the nature of the material objects in which the works are embodied.

Applications for copyright registration are made on forms which vary according to the class of work and which are designed to gather specific information on the copyright owner (Chapter 2, sections 201-205).

In the case of a periodical, one of the problems is how to establish accurately to whom the statement of authorship refers. There is a wide range of possibilities, since a periodical issue may:

> be a collection of individual contributions made independently (not for an employer). In such a case, the author(s) is(are) the copyright owner(s); or
>
> form a corporate work in which the contributions have been prepared by editors of the journal as part of their professional duties, i.e. on a "made for hire" basis, alongside other activities such as revision, editing and general layout. In this case, the employer or other person responsible for the publication is considered to be the author.

In certain circumstances, it is possible to register on a special form all the contributions made by a single author to a periodical over a twelve-month period.

Scope of the copyright law

The law protects works produced by authors and, in some cases, publishers. In the case of a serial, protection may be given to:

> an issue of a periodical; or
>
> separate articles.

In no case may protection be given to titles, even though they are distinctive titles. Titles which are cited in the indexes and catalogues of the CRO and which are classified in alphabetical order are considered to be merely points of access or reference. They are neither protected nor susceptible to protection.

Duration of copyright protection and extension

Copyright protection is for the life of the author (or the last living author) and fifty years thereafter. In the case of work performed within the scope of an employment or on a "made for hire" basis and certain anonymous or pseudonymous works, copyright subsists either for seventy-five years from first publication or for a century after the production of the work.

Special provisions cover the extension of copyright beyond the date of expiry. Copyright in contributions or articles by independent authors published by a periodical (whether registered separately or as part of a collective work) must be extended separately. However, in certain circumstances, it is possible to extend the copyright of a single author for an entire series of contributions listed on the extension application.

Control methods: time-limits and fines

The foregoing provisions already offer a means of justifying, controlling and defending copyright should the need for such action arise. They are only valid if the documents concerned have been deposited.

As a rule, no more than three months should elapse between publication and the delivery to the "Register of Copyrights" of the documents (generally two copies) bearing the simple copyright notice ©. However, some undeposited documents, selected to meet the needs of the Library of Congress, are the subject of written demands made by the CRO. Such demands may be made at any time and, after a period of three months, if reminders have been sent out and disregarded, may render the person or persons on whom the demand was made liable to fines which increase in proportion to the length of the delay.

The Library of Congress and legal deposit

It is specified in Chapter 4, section 407, of the copyright law that the copies deposited at the copyright office should be placed at the disposal of the Library of Congress. Thus, the law gives the deposit a specific purpose, namely to supply the most important national library from the vast range of publications which appear in the United States.

The "best edition" of the serial should be delivered. This is the edition, "published in the United States at any time before the date of deposit that the Library of Congress determines to be most suitable for its purposes". It is defined by a certain number of criteria, some of which are purely material and intended to ensure that the publication has the best possible chance of being preserved; others relate to the intrinsic value of the work. When serials are published through different material media microcopies are preferable to printed publications.

The Library of Congress and the copyright office

The deposited copies are the property of the United States Government. The law (Chapter 7, section 704) provides for three possible uses for them: they are available to the Library of Congress for its collections, or for exchange or transfer to another library.

Deposits not selected by the LC or portions of them shall be retained under the control of the CRO for the longest period considered practicable by the Records Management Division. After that period, they may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

Those documents which are retained and which, like serials, are obtained through the registration of each successive issue, are processed by the Acquisitions and Processing Division: the collections are controlled for the Library of Congress and demands are made for any missing issues.

The Library of Congress selects material for its collections on the basis of the experience of the Deposits and Acquisitions Section of the CRO and requests from the specialized departments of the Library.

The Cataloguing Division prepares cards on the serials received, which are to be recorded in a section of the catalogue of copyright entries, with an average period of one year elapsing between copyright registration and the publication of the record. Each record is edited according to the special CRO rules; it is planned to bring these more into line with the LC rules. Using ISBD punctuation, it merely supplies the essential particulars concerning the registration and extension of copyright. Conversational processing is done through the COPICS System (CRO Publication and Interactive Cataloguing System) linked by terminals to the Library of Congress. This arrangement enables the Library of Congress to keep a constant check on the stocks of periodicals received through the copyright office.

Bibliographic coverage

One of the questions which arises is how to evaluate the degree of bibliographic coverage achieved in this way. Copyright is the main source of the Library of Congress's acquisitions at national level. There are other systems which, like the CRO, are built around the Library of Congress Exchange and Gift Division, which handles the overall management of documents of all kinds contributed in the United States and from abroad.

It is difficult to separate information exclusively concerning American serials obtained through this channel from the overall body of data: periodicals are received through formal exchanges, transfers or gifts, or come from government sources. These sources tap a significant supply of State publications which are obtained through depository libraries responsible for forwarding them to the Library of Congress, or of official documents. The former are recorded immediately on the monthly check-list of State publications; the latter are recorded on a list of "government periodicals and subscription services". The collection problems in this most difficult of fields involve, rather, the publications of numerous official publishers other than the Government Printing Office (GPO).

Conclusion

The system for tracing and gathering data on American serials should be examined as such, in terms of its appropriateness to national requirements, the context in which it has developed and the services which it performs, without any implicit reference to the ideal of complete preservation or absolute control specific to other countries. The volume of the American publishers' output is in itself an inducement to a comparative form of selection, so that it is no longer necessary to conduct systematic searches for all the documents which theoretically have been deposited on account of the use of the copyright notice, and which are, at this level, likely to avoid registration: the documents which have been actually deposited and documents which are formally registered at the CRO already provide considerable resources.

Other documents are covered by supplementary procedures, which are strengthened by the new legislation (Chapter 4, section 407) that is designed to fill any gaps in the system: at any time, a demand may be made, under penalty of a fine, for all publications which the LC considers to be essential to the enrichment of its collections (80 per cent of the demands relate to serials).

Other publications which are not selected by the Library of Congress and are retained with its agreement by the CRO or publications considered to be of secondary importance, which it does not process immediately, form a secondary stock of publications which nevertheless remains accessible.

In the event of a demand being made, is there not likely to be a loss of time between publication and the dissemination of the bibliographic record on cards or tapes? Such a question fails to take into account the fact that after the data has been collected a series of complementary factors may affect the process. In the case of English-language records, MARC/S subscribers can receive provisional records rapidly through a direct link. In particular, there is the CONSER base which represents a vast source of bibliographic information that is often ahead of the actual acquisitions of the Library of Congress since it enables the latter to reduce by a quarter the proportion of the original cataloguing completed up till now, by replacing it with cumulated co-operative cataloguing.

1.2 Secondary sources of serials data

The legal-deposit system and the publishing trade provide information on serials directly. This information is intended to be used, primarily by the national bibliography, which is the natural repository of such information, and by other secondary sources such as union catalogues, specialized bibliographies and data bases. Accordingly, by reference to the survey findings we shall examine the way in which these instruments are developed and their content.

1.2.1 The national bibliography

Logically, and it is this that the competent international bodies would like to see, national bibliographic control of serials and monographs should everywhere be based on the existence of an information network systematically built around the agency responsible for data gathering and dissemination. It is basically a case of detecting new publications immediately upon their appearance (a role generally devolving upon the legal-deposit system examined in the preceding section) and then preparing records which identify and describe them. The preparation of authorized records for new titles and their prompt publication is often considered an essential task by national libraries which then do their cataloguing at the same time and thus achieve maximum efficiency without any risk of duplication. To be sure, the variations which have occurred over the course of time in bibliography and publishing in each country have shaped extremely different traditions. The task of assembling the materials covered by the national bibliography is far from being assigned systematically to the national library or being conceived along identical lines. However, an attempt has already been made (1) to identify general trends in serials handling and to detect any weaknesses so as better to appreciate the real contribution of the ISDS and its potential role in this field. The national bibliography is an essential reference tool for anyone seeking to measure the volume of serials published in a country and judge the rate of their dissemination in relation to publication. Futhermore, the recent International Congress on National Bibliographies held in Paris in September 1977, under the aegis of Unesco made, inter alia, the following recommendations:

> national bibliographies, as a minimum, should include the records for monographs and first issues and title changes of serials, including official publications;
>
> they should appear as a minimum quarterly and should be arranged in a classified order in accordance with a stated internationally used classification scheme (DDC or UDC);
>
> bibliographic records should be prepared in accordance with international standards, specifically the ISBDS, and the appropriate numbering system (ISSN).

Against this background, it would not be out of place to inquire whether the real situation more or less reflects this threefold ideal and how practising librarians implement it. We shall refrain here from evaluating the respective roles of national bibliographies and the ISDS centres in the field of cataloguing (2) and confine ourselves initially to those aspects which are related to bibliographic coverage and directly influence the effectiveness of the national bibliography as a source of information, namely content and frequency.

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(1) cf. above Primary sources: the legal deposit (utilization), p. 23 et seq.

(2) cf. Chapter 4 below.

Content

There is an official bibliography in 41 out of 46 (around 90 per cent) of the countries to which questionnaires were sent in 1977/1978 or which expressed their interest in the ISDS by entering into contact with the International Centre. In point of fact, only Libya and Mongolia do not seem to have an official bibliography at the present time. However, as these countries did not reply to the questionnaire, the information on them is fragmentary and generally inconsistent. In Argentina, a project is currently being studied under the direction of the national library. At present, bibliographic work is done concurrently by the national library, the "Centro de Documentación" of the "Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas" and the "Instituto Bibliotecológico" of the University of Buenos Aires. This work is characterized by a lack of co-ordination, which would make the outcome of any endeavour uncertain. However, a retrospective bibliography of serials, "Publicaciones argentinas 1781-1969", was published in 1971. A daily list of new publications is forwarded to the "Boletín Oficial" by the "Registro Nacional de la Propiedad Intelectual".

Although the United States and the Netherlands have their own particular systems, in the last analysis it may be said that the instruments they use are equivalent:

particulars of American serials are recorded regularly in:

> the Catalog of Copyright Entries (13 half-yearly sections; however, they appear with considerable delay, particularly in the case of official publications (2-3 years));
>
> the monthly Catalog of United States Government publications (a fairly short period, 4-6 weeks);
>
> the monthly check-list of State publications;
>
> new serial titles (monthly);

while in the Netherlands there is no official bibliography in the strict sense of the term, it is generally considered that "Brinkman's Catalogus van Boekan" serves the same purpose, despite the fact that it is produced by a private concern. It includes serials published in Dutch in Belgium and the Netherlands and follows the ISBD system.

On the basis of the main items of information obtained on serials control by national bibliographies the following observations may be made:

if the Netherlands are included, 42 out of the 46 countries (90 per cent) involved in the ISDS publish a current national bibliography; 4 of these 42 bibliographies do not cover serials. The 4 countries in question are Egypt, Hungary, Sweden and Yugoslavia. However, the last 3 countries publish special lists prepared by the bibliographic institutes and Hungary intends to extend its bibliography to cover serials.(1)

We should also note that in 9 cases(2) serials data are recorded both in the national bibliography and in a specific publication which often takes the form of a list of titles received on legal deposit. Lastly, in Canada, France, India,

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(1) Published since 1977.

(2) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, USSR.

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Indonesia, Israel, New Zealand, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia, there is a section or supplement for serials, while in Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Spain and Japan they are given a separate place or distinctive sign. The latter feature is of real significance in the sense that it ensures more reliable statistics and in particular affords an opportunity for cross-checking and obtaining a better idea of the way the concept of a "serial" has been extended by different national bibliographic agencies (at least 40 per cent of them). Another point to note is that in only 7 countries(1) is any attempt made to trace discontinued or suspended titles, which is a fundamental task, albeit a virtually impossible one!

No study of serials data-gathering can disregard serials published by government and administrative bodies. Moreover, the percentages are similar and distribution is roughly identical to the distribution of non-official publications. While Denmark, Israel and Sweden merely maintain special bibliographies, Belgium and Tunisia do not at present keep any bibliographic records of official publications. In 37 countries, the bibliography includes official publications, of which a sizeable proportion (46 per cent) are not indicated by a distinctive sign, so that identification is made extremely arbitrary. The other countries are divided as follows:

> Australia, Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Yugoslavia record official publications both in the national bibliography and in a separate catalogue;
>
> in 8 other countries (Bulgaria, Egypt, France,(2) German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Senegal and the USSR) there is a special section or supplement of the bibliography for official publications. Furthermore, in Malaysia and Nigeria, and also in the Netherlands and Yugoslavia, which have already been mentioned, official publications are distinguished by some kind of symbol (letter or asterisk).

These figures are significant in so far as they reflect the interest shown in serials in practically all the countries concerned. All the various professionals involved are keenly aware of the need for them to control an increasingly sprawling and unorganized group of publications. This implicit need for suitable control tools is felt universally.

Going by the chosen sample, national bibliographies seem to be considered an adequate means of recording serials data providing there is suitable access to the document concerned. In most cases, (80 per cent)(3) provision is made under legal-deposit legislation.

However, the national bibliography is also prepared from data provided by publishers on a voluntary basis, in order to make good any inadequacies in the legislation (as in the case of the Scandinavian countries where the legal time-limit for making the deposit is too long), the absence of any such legislation (Indonesia, the Netherlands) or simply the lack of bibliographic tradition (the Latin American countries, particularly Colombia and Mexico).

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(1) Australia, Belgium, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, New Zealand, Poland and USSR.

(2) In France, official serial publications are recorded in both supplements I and II of the Bibliographie de la France.

(3) The percentage of countries where the national bibliography is based on the legal-deposit system.

Another aspect directly connected with the question of access to publications is the location of the publisher of the national bibliography. In the most common arrangement (28 out of 42 cases) the national library and the bibliographic centre are integrated. Other systems are comparable to this, as in instances where the national archives (Malaysia, Morocco, Senegal) or the university library (Finland, Ireland, Mexico) incorporate the national library or assume its various functions. However, in other cases, the bibliographic institute may be quite independent from the libraries and come directly under the responsible Ministry, as in Colombia, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Spain and Yugoslavia.(1) Lastly, we should mention the Netherlands where the Sijthoff publishing company is in point of fact responsible for a "National Bibliography"(2) and the USSR where the preparation of the national bibliography is entrusted to the Chamber of Books.

Frequency

However, the effectiveness of the bibliography as a means of dissemination will be diminished if the inclusion of serials data proceeds at too slow a pace. In this respect, observation of the publication frequency of bibliographic descriptions and the length of time between the insertion of bibliographic records and the publication of the works in question provides a wealth of information.

The results of various sample surveys provide a basis for comparing, for purposes of guidance and without any definite conclusions being drawn, the frequency of bibliographies and the publication percentages for the current and previous years. This strictly material criterion prompts a number of statistical observations:

> 25 bibliographies out of 35(3) appear at least once a quarter. This percentage (75 per cent) is in line with the recommendation of the Congress held in September 1977:
>
> | | | | |
> |---|---|---|---|
> | weekly: | 7 | monthly: | 11 |
> | fortnightly: | 2 | quarterly: | 5 |
>
> by contrast, 7 (20 per cent) record serials data on merely an annual basis;
>
> furthermore, if content is examined in relation to the publication date, it may be seen that:
>
> > 10 (25 per cent) have an extremely good record of promptness since they include more than 50 per cent of the titles published in the year in question and appear at least once every quarter. Five of them (Australia, Denmark, Poland, United Kingdom and the USSR) include practically nothing more (95-100 per cent) than the titles for the current year or the preceding year;
> >
> > however, for quite different reasons, Canada, India, Israel and Japan register titles (20-35 per cent) two or more years after publication. An even longer delay occurs in Colombia, Indonesia, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal and Uruguay.

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(1) In roughly 14 per cent of the cases.

(2) Brinkman's Catalogus van Boeken.

(3) This figure does not include countries which do not have an "official bibliography", only record serials data in special catalogues or do not record serials data at all.

A significant disparity is to be noted between these percentages, obtained through sample surveys of all available national bibliographies and the notional minimum periods given in Table 3 (page 25): they reflect either delays connected with the legal deposit or difficulties in the compilation of the national bibliography.

Despite the conviction that the usefulness of the national bibliography is broadly dependent upon its regularity and promptness, the traditional dilemma of whether to produce a complete bibliography at a slow pace or a prompt but incomplete one is fairly universal. This problem attains critical proportions in South-East Asia and Latin America where the geographic dispersion and/or linguistic divisions among publishers add to the usual obstacles, which are a lack of personnel or funds.

1.2.2 Other secondary sources of serials data

Apart from the national bibliography, other secondary sources are used, either to complete records already made by the national bibliographic agency from legal-deposit publications or information provided by publishers, or to replace primary sources when their absence or inadequacy makes them quite inaccessible. Some of these sources are conventional; others involve sophisticated data-processing techniques.

1.2.2.1 Catalogues and bibliographies

Several national bibliographic services note that they seek to improve the quality of the bibliographic control of their national production by referring to library catalogues, publishers' catalogues, union catalogues, local or specialized bibliographies, reference works or lists of titles (Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand...).

It is necessary to underline here the importance of union catalogues both as a way of complementing traditional methods and as the main source of information when the usual resources prove to be inadequate.

When contacts with the official services responsible for collecting serials data are not facilitated by the existence of an administrative structure or appropriate informal relations, one of the frequent alternative solutions is to approach bodies engaged in bibliographic activities such as the publication of union catalogues. The information required by the ISDS centres in Argentina, Brazil and Colombia is not obtained through the legal-deposit system or the national library, but is provided by publishers and various scientific and technical institutions which incorporate it in a union catalogue.

In this way the centres can enjoy easy access to large collections of serials, abundant bibliographic information and a store of useful experience.

Similarly, the recently established Indian centre has sought the kind of facilities and framework which will further its activities from INSDOC (the Indian National Scientific and Documentation Centre), pending the time when these activities enable it to enter into relations with the copyright services in New Delhi and the national library in Calcutta.

Such alternatives are chosen too often to be fortuitous. They are adopted out of concern for convenience and efficiency at local level and are essentially aimed at offsetting any inadequacies in the legal system and its lack of practical utility. They are combined with the use of other bibliographic records, such as those to which reference has been made and are intended as solutions to a difficult situation and a way of offsetting the lack of enterprise and unattractiveness of the national services, sharing with them the responsibilities that cultural traditions and the overall situation encourage them to assume.

1.2.2.2 The role of data bases: the CONSER example

In an altogether different context, complementary sources are used, but they give way to more powerful, high-capacity tools. We are referring to the serials data bases which, through data-processing techniques, offer a way of building up machine-readable records and facilitate on-line interrogation of the assembled documentation through terminals.

The most highly developed model of this conversational network is provided by the CONSER project (Co-operative Conversion of Serials Project) in the United States. This project has been operational since 1975 and is designed to build up a 200,000-300,000 title base over a two-year period, using the computerized system provided by the OCLC (Ohio College Library Centre). Fifteen or so libraries selected for the standard of their cataloguing are involved in the project.

The file initially contained just over 100,000 titles, derived from three sources:

85,000 from MULS (Minnesota Union List of Serials);

28,700 from MARC/S;

3,000 from the national library of Canada.

There has been a steady growth in the number of titles in the file: 178,000 titles in May 1977, approximately 200,000 by the end of 1977, 250,000 by the beginning of 1979.

Records have been standardized by adopting a common format (MARC/S) and common rules (the AACR 1). They contain elements which facilitate replies to identification, description or location searches conducted in connection with serials. The CONSER base can be consulted with regard to the specific ISDS features and also serves as a source of bibliographic information and as a union catalogue.

The Library of Congress and the CONSER network: bibliographic control

Such a concentrated collection of data needs to be organized coherently. The various forms of cataloguing and the diversity of origins necessitate standardized bibliographic handling. The Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada are each responsible for controlling the quality of bibliographic description on records: so far, it has been possible to validate no more than one-third of the records.

The library's Serial Record Division is responsible for relations with CONSER. The link with the OCLC was established in June 1976. It radically altered the cataloguing systems which are currently organized along the following lines:

(a) The Library of Congress processes its own serials (American and foreign)

Firstly, a search is made for them in the data base. Here, there are two possibilities:

either the records in question are not found and original cataloguing is required; or one or more record of these titles has already been prepared by CONSER members. The best record is chosen and enriched with complementary elements taken from other descriptions.

This co-operative cataloguing experiment, which meets a logical and organizational requirement, has proved to be advantageous: at present one-third of the current cataloguing of the Library of Congress is derived from information provided by other institutions and the records are more complete than formerly. There is a gain in terms of the quality of the bibliographic information provided: there is likewise a gain in terms of speed, since there is an accelerated procedure for English-language records. Other potential advantages will probably emerge at a later stage.

Manual cataloguing records are passed to the "Input Group" which is the service responsible for their coding (it should be emphasized that the cataloguing and coding operations are quite separate) and for data validation and logging. Each week CONSER returns these data in magnetic-tape form. They are incorporated in the MARC/S base, which only contains authenticated records, and are disseminated to MARC/S subscribers.

(b) A second system channels the activities of the Library of Congress and its Post-Edit Group. Such activities are undertaken within the context of the library's role as the responsible body *vis-à-vis* the CONSER network and involve examining the records prepared by the members and correcting, updating and authorizing them.

Recently, the library has also been handling record amendment requests from associated libraries; this new aspect of its work is an additional sign of its constant effort to increase the value of the bibliographic input.

Inter-library co-operation relies on a range of working instruments that help libraries to solve various problems and standardize current practices:

the MARC/Serials Editing Guide, 2nd edition, prepared for CONSER use, provides, more especially, information on data layout and lists the elements included in the MARC/S format;

the CONSER Manual represents an attempt to harmonize divergent bibliographic rules. Also available are various annotated forms which may be used for amending records, drawing attention to duplications, etc.

The positive aspects of this experiment are not such as to conceal the various problems encountered. One of a number of typical difficulties is the fundamental problem of standardizing cataloguing procedures, which the centres involved encounter each day. In the CONSER base, the tolerance of other rules besides the AACR has given rise to a proliferation of scattered records, prepared from successive issues of a single bibliographic unit.

Various complications arise out of duplications and a lack of consistency in the recording of title changes, as either the last-title entry method or the successive entry method is used. Another factor in the case of the Library of Congress itself concerns individual practices, such as superimposition, which multiply the variations in information access points. Lastly, the end of 1981 should see the changes which are an essential aspect of the adoption of the new AACR2 rules, the repercussions of which will be all the more appreciable as the volume of documentation concerned is larger.

The growth of the CONSER network and its success despite foreseeable difficulties give the picture of a process which in the not too distant future will gradually be extended to most of the ISDS member countries. This is a relatively recent phenomenon which, as we have seen, calls into question the usual working methods and standards, considerably increases the volume of available information and speeds up its dissemination. The benefits of such developments are not confined to the national community concerned, but are equally felt beyond its borders. By improving the quality of the records and promoting interchange, this increased capacity will contribute to the attainment of the objectives established in terms of Universal Bibliographic Control.

1.3 Contribution of the legal-deposit system and national bibliographies to the universal bibliographic control of serials

The voluntary contributions from publishers and the different legal procedures (legal deposit and copyright) which affect the collection of information on serials are instrumental in the creation of a number of tools for recording serials, of which the most suitable is still the national bibliography. However, it may be asked to what extent UBC requirements are met.

There would be a danger here of misleading the user if it were merely stated that a certain bibliography covers official and non-official serial publications. In this respect, the Congress on National Bibliographies held in September 1977 suggested that the information given in the introduction to a national bibliography should include a very detailed account of the publications covered by the bibliography, and of those excluded from it. While the objective of both the legal-deposit system and the national bibliography is to achieve complete control, those responsible for UBC admit that the decision in this respect rests with each bibliographic agency. They also emphasize the necessity of motivation: the bibliography should meet a need. In most places the response has generally been positive and emphasis is put on the contribution made to the cultural heritage by the national imprint. This explains the encouragement given to the collection, preservation and dissemination of publications, activities with which the national bibliography is closely associated.

Admittedly, we are talking in terms of an ideal situation. In point of fact, voluntary selection is found at the legal-deposit stage and, discounting the awkward terminological problems already mentioned,(1) is made according to the following criteria:

the origins of the publication (Should administrative and government serial publications be included? Should publishers' collections be included?);

the type of production or physical form (Cases of non-print titles, in typewritten form or new media);

the appropriateness of the content: (internal company reports, publicity publications, periodicals of local societies, etc.).

It is not difficult to predict the wide range of interpretations which may ensue. One point, however, is unanimously recognized, namely that only first issues of new titles should be mentioned in the current bibliography.

The questionnaire sent to the bibliographic agencies of the ISDS member countries or countries negotiating ISDS membership provided an opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge of the diversity of policies regarding the universal bibliographic control of serials. Papers presented at various congresses have also been consulted. It would appear from these sources that almost half of the countries concerned (22 out of 46) operate some form of selection, either in respect of publications to be delivered on legal deposit, or those which are to be recorded in the national bibliography.(1)

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(1) cf. the chapter on the legal deposit: 1.1.1.

Of these countries:

3 (German Democratic Republic, Israel, New Zealand) require all publications to be delivered on legal deposit and operate a fairly elaborate system of selection for their bibliography;

3 others (Spain, India, Thailand) operate a rather selective legal-deposit system but would like to achieve complete bibliographic control;

in the case of 6 agencies, the exemptions from the legal-deposit requirement strictly determine the content of the bibliography: (Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Malaysia, Morocco);

in the remaining 10 cases (45 per cent), various publications are excluded from the bibliography in addition to those exempted from the legal-deposit requirement (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Singapore, United Kingdom).

It would seem possible to classify the exempted or excluded publications in decreasing order of the number of such cases. This classification is schematically shown in the following table:

TYPES OF PUBLICATIONS EXCLUDED	Exempted from legal-deposit requirement	Excluded from the bibliography	Total number exempted and/or excluded
Official publications	10	3	13
Internal publications and reports	10	2	12
Local publications (administrative bodies, societies, etc.)	2	4	6
Press (newspapers, magazines)	2	2	4
Commercial and advertising publications	2	2	4
Confidential publications or publications for limited distribution	2	1	3
Publications of ephermeral interest	1	1	2
Publishers' collections	-	2	2
Publications of no scientific value	-	2	2

However, this tentative classification can only serve as guidance. Care must be taken not to infer from it that bibliographic agencies use identical terminology. Meanings vary considerably depending on the scope of any particular term. Furthermore, the categories listed above are not really homogeneous: some of them are easily defined by their formal characteristics (e.g. official publications, press); in the case of other publications, the exemption or exclusion criteria relate to the quality of the content and could become dangerously subjective and arbitrary. This gives a better idea of the difficulty of demarcating the respective categories of serial publications that are or are not to be excluded from legal deposit or the national bibliography. We should note in passing that in most cases the national bibliography ratifies the legal deposit selection and that, when it departs from the latter, it takes into account the importance or foreseeable life-span of the serials concerned.

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(1) cf. Table 4 below.

It may be asked whether those responsible for the centres have contemplated evading the various terminological pitfalls. All the same, 13 countries out of 46 (28 per cent)(1) have opted for complete coverage on the grouds that an official bibliography should be a faithful reflection of the national production and that any reduction of it by an arbitrary exclusion of so-called "publications of minor importance" would give a false picture of the national imprint. In point of fact, this position all too often amounts to no more than a declaration of intent, for all the countries concerned are keenly aware of the gaps which exist, in varying degrees, in their respective data collection systems. However, they maintain that they cannot allow the process of "natural selection" to be impaired by a predetermined selection in the case of either the legal-deposit system or the national bibliography.

Finally, there are 7 countries whose official national bibliographies do not include serial publications. However, they have legal-deposit or copyright legislation, which does not provide for any exemptions in the case of Egypt, the United States, Hungary, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, and is more selective in Argentina and Sweden:

> Argentina: no deposit required for university publications; no deposit required for publications not in book form;
>
> Hungary: no deposit required for non-print material.

Furthermore, 4 countries (Indonesia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Netherlands) have not yet introduced the legal-deposit system. The information collected on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mongolia does not tell us anything more. On the other hand, the current bibliographies in Indonesia and the Netherlands are compiled on the basis of voluntary deposits, the aim being to achieve complete bibliographic coverage.

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(1) Algeria, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, USSR and Uruguay.

TABLE 4

COUNTRIES IN WHICH A SELECTION PROCEDURE OPERATES IN RESPECT OF SERIALS EITHER FOR LEGAL DEPOSIT OR FOR THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY		
COUNTRY	LEGAL-DEPOSIT SELECTION	NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY SELECTION
AUSTRALIA	Exempted publications: - re-issues - the LD is not compulsory in the case of OP	For this reason, a certain number of OP are excluded
AUSTRIA	- no deposit requirement for OP - no deposit requirement for reports	The same types of publications are excluded
BELGIUM	No compulsory LD for daily and weekly newspapers	Idem + the following publications are excluded: - 1st issues of annual reports - internal documents - OP
BULGARIA	Exempted publications: - local OP (provincial administrations) - internal publications and reports - publications of ephermeral interest	The same publications are excluded from the national bibliography
CANADA	Exempted publications: - OP - internal reports	Idem + the following publications are excluded: - all internal publications - newspapers
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Exempted publications: - newspapers - OP	The bibliography therefore contains only a selection of OP which are otherwise excluded
DENMARK*	Exempted publications: - OP - confidential publications	Idem + the following publications are excluded: - publications of ephemeral interest - local serials - publishers' collections - commercial serials - reports of no scientific value
FINLAND	Exempted publications: - OP - advertising serials and company reports	Idem + local publications

* The bibliography is not based on the LD; 85 per cent is compiled from copies supplied without charge.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	No exemptions	There is a form of selection: - on the basis of the importance of the publication - in the case of OP, internal reports are excluded
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF	Exempted publications: - internal reports (OP) - commercial and advertising publications	The same selection + the following publications are excluded: - semi-official university publications - publications of towns with a population of less than 100,000
INDIA	No deposit for OP	No publications are excluded
ISRAEL	No exemption from the deposit requirement	OP are not recorded in the current bibliography
ITALY*	Exempted publications	Idem + a selection of OP
MALAYSIA	Exempted publications: - OP (internal reports)	Idem
MOROCCO	Exempted publications: - internal reports	Idem
NEW ZEALAND	No exemptions	However, the bibliography is selective: - no confidential publications - no advertising serials - no journals of local societies
NORWAY	Exempted publications: - internal publications	Idem + daily newspapers are excluded
POLAND	Only printed publications come under the legal-deposit requirement. Exempted publications: - internal reports	The bibliography does not include collections: selection is dependent on the types of publishers and corporate publishers
SINGAPORE	Exempted publications: - typewritten publications	The aim is complete bibliographic coverage, but OJ (proceedings, debates, decrees, etc.) are excluded
SPAIN	Exempted publications: - OP	The national bibliography seeks complete bibliographic coverage
THAILAND	Exempted publications: - OP	While no publications are excluded, problems are experienced in the case of OP

* The bibliography is considered to be a selection of the LD.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	Only printed publications come under the legal-deposit requirement. Exempted publications: - newspapers and internal company reports	*Idem* + local serials are excluded

1.4 Appraisal of the effectiveness of the systems used

An overall picture of the sources may be formed by reference to the bibliographic agencies' own evaluations of the bibliographic coverage of serials. By way of complementing the analysis of the use of the legal-deposit system(1) and with a view to facilitating comparisons, the results will be given in the order adopted in the preceding study of UBC and selection.

A. Countries in which serials are selected either for the legal deposit or for the national bibliography

Country	Bibliographic control
Australia	Almost total coverage: 95-98 per cent. The NL actively searches for titles which have not been deposited. Even in the case of OP, no serious problems are encountered. Administrative bodies usually deposit their publications, although they are under no obligation to do so.
Austria	Coverage considered to be total: 100 per cent.
Belgium	No reply concerning non-official serials; in the case of OP, it is complained that the legislation is inadequate.
Bulgaria	Coverage considered to be total, except for OP: legislation inadequate.
Canada	Coverage considered inadequate. The whole system depends on the goodwill of publishers. No possibility of evaluation. OP do not come under the legal-deposit requirement.
Czechoslovakia	Poor bibliographic coverage: the legal-deposit system does not work satisfactorily.
Denmark	Coverage considered inadequate: only 90 per cent of the important publications. Furthermore, OP are exempted from the legal-deposit requirement.
Finland	Bibliographic coverage adequate: 98 per cent. There are a number of problems in connection with OP.
German Democratic Republic	Total coverage 100 per cent according to the NBA.
Germany, Federal Republic of	Adequate coverage: 90 per cent for commercial publications; 80-90 per cent for publications not for sale.

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(1) cf. section 1.1.3, p. 23 et seq.

India	Incomplete coverage; no compulsory legal deposit in the case of OP. Closer contacts should be established with the Register of Newspapers (Delhi). Coverage is around 90 per cent.
Israel	Although not 100 per cent, bibliographic coverage is reasonably good. Besides, Israel does not aim at complete bibliographic control.
Italy	Bibliographic coverage: 80 per cent. Problems in connection with OP. Inadequate legislation.
Malaysia	Inadequate bibliographic coverage (78 per cent). Many serials cannot be included because their life-span is too short.
Morocco	No information on non-official publications. Inadequate legislation on OP.
New Zealand	Inadequate bibliographic coverage (60 per cent). However, important titles are included; the other titles are of local interest. The legislation on OP is inadequate.
Norway	No reply to the questionnaire. There do not seem to be any problems.
Poland	Inadequate bibliographic coverage. Improvement is expected by inserting publishers' collections.
Singapore	Very good bibliographic coverage: 95 per cent for non-official serials. However, the legislation on OP is inadequate.
Spain	No information on non-official publications. The legislation on OP is inadequate.
Thailand	Bibliographic coverage is incomplete (60 per cent). Furthermore, OP do not come under legal-deposit requirement: for newspapers coverage is 80 per cent and 90 per cent.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Fairly good bibliographic coverage: 75-90 per cent, according to the type of serial.

This table lends itself to the following statistical analysis:

Very good bibliographic control: 5 countries (23 per cent)
Adequate bibliographic control: 5 countries (23 per cent)
Inadequate bibliographic control: 8 countries (36 per cent)
Unclassifiable: 4 countries (18 per cent)

The most serious difficulties are posed by official serials (59 per cent of the cases) which do not generally come under the legal-deposit requirement. Forty-six per cent of the countries which have adopted a greater or lesser degree of selection are satisfied with their bibliographic coverage. We shall now consider the countries which aim at complete bibliographic coverage.

B. Countries aiming at complete bibliographic control

Country	Bibliographic control
Algeria	No reply to the questionnaires.
Brazil	Unsatisfactory bibliographic control. The legislation is totally inadequate and out of date: the difficulties are compounded by the lack of a national bibliographic system and by the size of the country.
Colombia	Inadequate bibliographic control (60 per cent).
Cuba	No reply to the questionnaires.
France	Not assessable in percentage terms. However, there is an appropriate level of bibliographic control and the aim is to achieve complete coverage.
Ireland	Good bibliographic coverage (90 per cent), even in the case of OP.
Japan	Reasonably good bibliographic coverage (80 per cent). However, there are a number of problems in connection with OP, caused by inadequate legislation.
Mexico	OP do not come under the legal-deposit requirement. No other information available (no reply to the questionnaires).
Nigeria	Fair bibliographic coverage (75 per cent).
Philippines	Inadequate bibliographic coverage, particularly in the case of OP (inadequate legislation).
Senegal	No reply to the questionnaires. However, there are difficulties in connection with OP owing to extremely unstable administrative structures.
Uruguay	No reply to the questionnaires.
USSR	Good bibliographic coverage. No problems in the case of OP.

Out of the 13 countries which aim at complete bibliographic coverage of serials, only 8 replied (62 per cent). Exactly half of these countries considered their level of bibliographic control appropriate or good.

Finally, there is considerable variation in the level of bibliographic control achieved in the 11 countries where serials do not come under the legal-deposit requirement or are excluded from the national bibliography.

Argentina	A good level of control of OP; no reply to the questionnaires on this point.
Egypt	No reply to the questionnaires. However, there is a good level of control of OP, despite various problems.

Hungary[*]	Good bibliographic coverage (90 per cent).
Indonesia	Poor bibliographic control: (50-60 per cent) and sometimes 20 per cent in the case of certain publications (no LD). However, important publications are covered (85 per cent). There is no policy of selection.
Libya	No reply to the questionnaires. However, the legislation is quite inadequate. There is no legal-deposit requirement for either official or non-official serials.
Mongolia	No reply to the questionnaires.
Netherlands	No reply to the questionnaires.
Sweden	Not assessable in percentage terms, but satisfactory.
Tunisia	95 per cent in the case of official serials. The percentage for OP is not known, but it is certainly not as high owing to the lack of a national bibliographic system.
United States	Bibliographic control 80 per cent; good in the case of scientific serials; fair in the case of OP.
Yugoslavia	No reply to the questionnaires. But level of control of OP is good.

Finally, a numerical assessment of the bibliographic coverage achieved through a combination of the legal-deposit system and the national bibliography leads to the following observations:

(a) fifteen countries out of 46 (32.6 per cent) did not reply either to the questionnaires in general or on this specific aspect;

(b) out of the 31 which replied:

eighteen report satisfactory or very satisfactory bibliographic coverage;

thirteen consider their bibliographic coverage fair or poor.

It may therefore be concluded that most of the countries are optimistic about their bibliographic coverage. This suggests an interesting trend, since these figures refer to more than a third of the existing States and around 80 per cent of the serials published throughout the world.

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[*] Serials included in the national bibliography since 1977.

CHAPTER 2

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISDS CENTRES

A considerable variety of serial publications (periodicals, series, collections, reports, and documents published annually or less frequently) is available, despite the inevitable oversights at the data collection stage and subsequently at the processing stage.

What is the best way of ensuring control of these publications? The impermanency of serials, the difficulties in handling them, their enormous documentary value and requirements in the fields of research and communication are factors which must surely offer full scope for international initiatives.

2.1 ISDS - a comprehensive structure

Under an agreement between Unesco and the French Government, the ISDS (International Serials Data System) was established in 1971, within the framework of the World Science Information System (UNISIST) and in conjunction with the ICSU/AB.

The ISDS is a two-tiered system consisting of:

(a) The International Centre, which, as defined in Article 1 of the Statutes of the ISDS International Centre is "responsible for the introduction and operation of an automated system for the registration of serial publications in all branches of knowledge ...".(1)

Serial publications are identified and recorded by means of the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) which is inseparably associated with the key-title of each serial and 20 or so other data elements including a number of optional elements.

All the information gathered is recorded in an international register of data on serials from the widest possible range of fields and origins. The IC is responsible for the maintenance and dissemination of this register.

(b) The International Centre plays a centralizing role which is essential for ensuring the consistency of the procedures, rules and techniques implemented in the organization. The national centres (NC) and the regional centres (RC) are each responsible for the registration of the national or regional bibliographic production within their respective territories.

This aspect of ISDS operations is fully in line with the principles of Universal Bibliographic Control in which it is advocated that a national control system should first be established in each country. In this case, the identification of serials involves the amalgamation of standardized data gathered through the NC and RC network, which are integrated at international level and made available to users.

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(1) Document PGI-77/WS/3 of 11 October 1977.

2.1.1 The establishment of the centres: agreements and statutes

The establishment of the centres is the responsibility of the governments of Unesco Member States. The latter advise the Organization, through the official channels, of their intention to establish a centre and specify the location of the centre and the name of its director.

2.1.1.1 The next stage is for the director of the International Centre and the director of the new centre to sign an agreement setting out their respective obligations:

the International Centre is responsible for supplying all its available data (in print or on tape) on titles of the country concerned already processed, particularly data extracted from the international file, together with any supporting documents and a list of numbered titles appearing in the two Ulrich directories published by Bowker Publishing Company,(1) of which the catalogue particulars should be checked. Reference should also be made to national titles published in the New Serials Titles, 1950-1970 cumulative, the ISDS Bulletins and the microfiches of the International Register for the period since 1978.

Specific information on forms of data interchange is given together with a renewable block of ISSN which enables the new national centre to assign ISSN for the serials published in the respective territory.

The national centre is responsible for:

file building through the control and registration of serials published in the country concerned;

the dissemination of information from these national files and the promotion of the use of the ISSN among publishers with whom special relations should be maintained;

acceptance of the copyright protection clauses aimed at ensuring the copyright of the IC and any organization which may have provided it with information.

2.1.1.2 Accession to the Statutes of the ISDS International Centre is quite separate from the procedure previously described.

It takes place when the Statutes have been approved by the member countries in the network. Confirmation of the accession must be forwarded to the Director-General of Unesco by the governments concerned. Under the provisions of Article 4 of the Statutes the payment of a financial contribution is required, to be used together with funds from other sources to ensure that the International Centre functions properly. This undertaking has so far been entered into by some fifteen centres, including a number recently admitted (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Spain, Belgium, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Hungary, Nigeria, Poland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States) out of some forty operational centres. There should be a steady increase in the number of accessions.

2.1.1.3 The International Centre and the regional centres enter into special agreements along the same lines as those described in paragraph 1. The obligations concerning information exchange and copyright protection are mostly identical.

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(1) Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory.
Ulrich's Irregular Serials and Annuals.

However, the balance of responsibilities is more complex and difficult to establish. It varies according to the local situation and the form of association agreed upon by the regional centre and the national centre. This arrangement covers the organization of work, objectives, the form of participation and exchange methods in what may be a pre-existing structure (such as the MCNTI, the International Scientific and Technical Information Centre in Moscow, which functions as the ISDS/RC) or a new structure (the South-East Asia RC) established on the basis of an agreement or a charter adopted by the five member countries.

2.1.1.4 Co-ordination and communication

It is quite clear that such a geographically dispersed system as the ISDS cannot conceivably function without the adoption of a unanimously accepted set of common rules (in this respect considerable guidance has been provided since 1973 by the "Guidelines for ISDS", and a planned manual for use by the centres will play a valuable role) or without a constant harmonization of procedures which continually diverge as a result of differences in national practice.

Within the network, working relationships are established with the International Centre or on an inter-centre basis. Informal meetings of centre directors lead to more effective solutions to the various problems which they encounter in their daily activities. Seminars and practical courses contribute to the training of personnel of new centres and further the gradual construction of a balanced system.

2.1.2 The present state of the ISDS network

However, the ISDS International Centre has not confined its efforts to the development of the legal framework described in the previous section. It has also been concerned with the practical business of establishing a network of 41 centres(1) (including two regional centres) which currently cover the five continents.

(a) Geographical distribution by continents

The list in Annex 1 shows the distribution of the centres by continents. It also shows that most of the early members were industrialized countries. Whereas the United States and Canada and almost all the European countries are represented, there are still a good many parts of the world where centres have not been established. In Africa, several countries are currently negotiating the terms of their accession to the Statutes; a preparatory general meeting aimed at promoting the establishment of new centres was held in Lagos in January 1978. Other such meetings are to be held in South and Central America and in the Arab countries.

With the growth in the number of Member States and the accumulated experience of the larger number of members, the respective roles of the International Centre and the national centres should begin to develop along distinctive lines. With a greater degree of control over their activities, the national centres will release the International Centre from some of its current functions, and so enable it to devote more time to the provision of expertise and consultancy at an international level.

(b) Accessions to the Statutes seem to have progressed steadily. As far back as 1972, the United States began to use their National Serials Data Project (NSDP), operational since 1967, for the building up of a serials data bank, as a framework for the national activities of the ISDS centre. Most of the European countries (Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Scandinavia) joined the ISDS within the first three years of its existence. A number of developing countries acceded to the Statutes in 1976. Since then the community of members has grown at the rate of several members a year. The list of centres (Annex 2) represents an attempt to illustrate this pattern. In the case of each country, it provides, within the limits of available information, the following particulars:

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(1) Figures for April 1978.

(a) the date of the establishment of the centre, the date on which it became operational, a reference to accession to the Statutes of the ISDS International Centre;

(b) information of any administrative or formal relations with the national library or national bibliography, regardless of whether they have made premises available for the establishment of the centre.

Such particulars give a clear idea of the legal position of each centre both in relation to the ISDS International Centre and towards the national bodies under whose authority it comes.

2.1.3 The establishment of the centres: preliminary steps

It frequently happens that some considerable time elapses between the establishment of a centre and its effective operation. Furthermore, the agreement with the International Centre is often preceded by preparatory steps lasting months and, in some cases, years.

It is perfectly normal for a period of time to be devoted to a preliminary study and evaluation of the work and responsibilities to be taken on by each new member. However, successive delays are often a sign of difficulties encountered at local level. In the early days of their existence, all the centres have to solve the same types of problem.

2.1.3.1 Personnel

Even though a number of countries refer to inadequate financial resources (Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Canada) which result in a shortage of facilities and equipment and recruitment difficulties, the personnel problem is definitely the major cause of concern (referred to as such by the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand).

Other centres state that the personnel made available are inadequate for their work-load (the Italian NC, which at the outset operated with temporary staff; the New Zealand centre, which has only just been assigned one part-time worker; lastly, Hungary, with a full-time staff of three and one part-time worker who are, however, already experienced in serials registration, having been involved in the common information system of the socialist countries since 1973).

Tunisia and Thailand state that they lacked or lack qualified permanent staff. Australia refers to a shortage of competent computer personnel. Brazil, Japan, Nigeria and Malaysia mention a lack of management personnel.

Lastly, several countries, including Nigeria, Malaysia and Thailand, underline the acute training problems and acknowledge that the ISDS International Centre has helped them to solve these problems by organizing practical training courses and seminars.

2.1.3.2 Communications

Other countries seriously complain that communication difficulties with the ISDS International Centre have arisen at the very time when certain centres required precise directives (Denmark). It is quite clear that the extension of the network and the constant rhythm of interchange between the International Centre and its members make it particularly vulnerable to the slightest disruption in the usual pattern of relations.

There are unavoidable factors such as political unrest and postal strikes. In the case of Canada, Australia, Japan and New Zealand distance has been as significant a factor as the postal difficulties which Sweden, Denmark and Tunisia have given as the reason for initial delays.

Problems concerning finance, personnel and communications play a major part in the early days of a centre. When they all occur at once without being solved, the existence of the national centre is naturally put at risk (as in the case of the Austrian national centre: founded in 1973, non-operational in 1977). However, such predictable obstacles may be looked on as normal features of any new venture which can be overcome (United States). A number of other national centres do not seem to have experienced any particular difficulties in this respect (Singapore, United Kingdom, USSR/NC).

2.2 The background and the choice of a location

2.2.1 Role of the existing bibliographic system

The ISDS centres are not intended to function in isolation. They are to be actively incorporated into the national bibliographic services. A number of factors can either further or check their development in this connection. Some centres suffer from incorporation into an inadequate infrastructure which fails to provide them with reasonable resources (Indonesia refers to the delay in the publication of the national bibliography; Argentina to the set-up of the national bibliography which impedes access to necessary sources of information; Italy cites the complexity of the existing bibliographic system - four bodies perform the functions of the national bibliographic agency). By contrast, other centres found, at the time of their establishment, various sophisticated structures and operational computerized systems which at the outset did not take easily to the introduction of a new system. It is therefore necessary to ensure format compatibility and standardize cataloguing codes. Since 1973, this has been the concern of the Canadian centre whose activity was originally influenced by two particular phenomena:

the integration of the descriptions specified in the "Guidelines for ISDS" into the "Canadiana" automation process (for serial publications);

the considerable pressure brought to bear by the American CONSER data base for an elaborate retrospective numbering system.

This dynamic element in American library science has resulted in the construction of a data base of around 250,000 American and foreign titles, and represents a focal point whose influence is felt far beyond the borders of the United States. It entails the introduction of an accelerated system of ISSN assignment, such as the one adopted in 1972 by the Bowker Publishing Company for their serials directories based on a block of 60,000 ISSN.

2.2.2 Establishment

The local situation and the existing bibliographic services play an important part in the life of a centre which has to bring its influence to bear on these services and receive the maximum amount of information from them. It may be asked from what base the centre will operate and how such a base should be selected so as to have the necessary instruments to hand.

A number of essential conditions may be defined. The most advantageous arrangement will be a location:

near a large serials collection;

near a source of new titles, received on legal deposit or through the copyright system; and

one that will provide access to the files of the national bibliography.

The most frequent ISDS location is the national library (65 per cent of the cases). Next come major documentation centres (26 per cent) followed by independent bibliographic services (7 per cent) which are in practice national bibliographic agencies. Lastly, there is a university library which also serves as a national library (the distribution of locations by country is shown in Annex 3 of this chapter). There is no single pattern and the variety of options reflects different forms of development and traditions in the field of bibliographic control.

In all cases, the national centres are established as part of important institutions engaged in the control and processing of national publications. Generally, they form part of a body which is the focal point of bibliographic activity and interchange.

The particular sections of institutions selected for the location of the centres have a number of features in common, as may be seen in the following table (Annex 4). In accordance with the requirements outlined above, the centres generally come under or are located near one of the following administrative services:

2.2.2.1 The national bibliographic agency and its cataloguing service, with which the centre establishes working relations with a view to processing a common body of bibliographic material. Such working relations vary in the extreme; in some situations, the national centre is fully incorporated in the national bibliographic agency; in others, the national centre and the national bibliographic agency carry on independent operations alongside one another. Co-operation may be very close or practically non-existent. On the last point, there is a unanimous desire to forge closer ties, particularly when the prospects of automation and the need to devise an economic form of management make it desirable to integrate the two cataloguing systems in terms of rules and computer input.

This arrangement has been adopted by almost three-quarters of the ISDS member countries which replied to the survey questionnaire. This is a logical enough pattern since such an arrangement brings together the services which are respectively responsible for the description and the identification of serials and are located near the legal deposit office and national collections, and which are both engaged in promoting the dissemination and interchange of bibliographic information.

Several different patterns of relationship have the NBA as their common element. The most frequent pattern is NL-NBA-NC (approximately 60 per cent of the cases). The other two patterns closely resemble this model. The national bibliographic agency, to which the centre is attached, may come under a university library (Finland) or any other large central library. Alternatively, the sponsoring organization may be an independent bibliographic institute.

2.2.2.2 In those countries where the responsibility for bibliographic activities is divided between the national library and several major research and documentation establishments whose spheres of influence are clearly defined, it is in some cases the practice to enter into the kind of working arrangement referred to above, in view of its advantages as a way of complementing or making good any inadequacies in the legal-deposit system (page 22). This happens in four cases out of ten; no information on the administrative position of the national centre has been provided in the other cases. The point of interest for the national centre is then the union catalogue of one of these institutions and the size of its collections. This form of location would not necessarily exclude complementary links with the national library if administrative or operational obstacles could be reduced.

It is difficult to make such a clear distinction between the "National Bibliographic Agencies" and the "Union Catalogues". Among the first group, various joint arrangements involving both are to be found. In the United Kingdom, the working relations between BUCOP (British Union Catalogue of Periodicals) and the UK/NSDC (the British national centre) are infinitely closer than the latter's relations with the British National Bibliography. In the United States where there is no national bibliography as such, its place is taken by "New Serial Titles" (a serials union catalogue); the NST and the NSDP (New Serials Data Program) both form part of the "Serials Record Division" of the Library of Congress. What is more, we cannot disregard the influence of the CONSER base which performs numerous functions, serving in particular as a union catalogue (Chapter 1, page 45 et seq.).

The national and regional centres form part of a range of bibliographic services examined in detail in the preceding section, their task being to forge a close relationship with the users of the system. The network of national and regional centres is built around the International Centre which co-ordinates their activities. In 1978, this network was made up of 41 centres including two regional centres.(1) The communications problem has been discussed on several occasions (3rd meeting of the Committee of Experts, Paris, 17-19 October 1973, the meeting of Centre Directors held in Washington in November 1974, the meeting of the Moscow RC held in February 1975) from the standpoints of the consistency of the rules and the study of the data media and technical methods by which information is conveyed. Dealings are generally conducted by post (and by telephone and telex to meet urgent requests) and do not escape the difficulties noted in section 2.1.3.2, page 60.

The chart reproduced in Annex 5 shows the density and frequency of the interchanges between the International Centre and the other centres. It also indicates direct relations between individual centres and illustrates the fact that, while the regional centres naturally serve as focal points for the national centres attached to them, other patterns of relationship are established on the basis of geographical, linguistic or economic affinities. It is particularly informative to examine the spontaneous contacts between certain national centres (in the Scandinavian countries for example) or the activities of other centres, as reflected by numerous contacts with organizations outside the system.

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(1) The Moscow regional centre and the Thailand regional centre.

ANNEX 1

LIST OF MEMBER STATES AND COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ENTERED INTO CONTACT WITH THE ISDS(1)

(by regions)

APRIL 1978

AFRICA

Algeria*
Egypt*
Morocco
Nigeria
Senegal*
Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*
Tunisia

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Canada
Cuba
United States of America

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina
Brazil
Colombia
Mexico
Uruguay

ASIA

India*
Indonesia
Japan
Malaysia
Mongolia
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand (NC)
Thailand (RC)

MIDDLE EAST

Israel

EUROPE

Austria
Belgium*
Bulgaria
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Finland
France
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Spain*
Sweden
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (NC)
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (RC)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Yugoslavia

OCEANIA

Australia
New Zealand

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(1) Countries currently engaged in negotiations with the ISDS are indicated by an asterisk.

ANNEX 2

ISDS CENTRES - ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUS

COUNTRY	Date of establishment of the centre	Date on which it became operational	Accession to Statutes	Administrative or formal relations with	
				National library	National bibliography
ARGENTINA	June 1974	November 1974	Yes	No links until 1977. The NC is housed at the Argentine Centre for Scientific and Technical Information	
AUSTRALIA	November 1973	1974	No	Yes	Yes
AUSTRIA	1973	Still not operational in 1977	No	Yes	Yes
				Theoretical reply	
BRAZIL	1976	1977	Yes	No	No
BULGARIA (the NC comes under the Moscow RC)	No reply to this question		Yes	Yes	Yes
				The work of the NC is done by the NL	
CANADA	1973	1974	Yes	Yes	Yes
COLOMBIA	February 1976	July 1976	No	No official links	
CUBA	No reply to the questionnaires				
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	No reply from the ISDS/NC			No (reply from NBA)	
DENMARK	1975	January 1976	No	Yes	Yes
FINLAND	1974	February 1975	Yes	Yes	Yes
FRANCE	July 1973	January 1975	Founder member	Yes	Yes
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (the NC comes under the Moscow RC)	July 1974	December 1974	No	Yes	Yes (but the national bibliography is inadequate)

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF	December 1974	May 1975	Yes	Yes	Yes
HUNGARY (the NC comes under the Moscow RC)	1974	November 1976	Yes	Yes	Yes
INDONESIA (the NC belongs to the South-East Asia RC)	1976	1977	No	No	No
IRELAND	September 1976	1977	No	Yes	No bibliography as such
ISRAEL	November 1977 date of agreement	February 1977	No	Yes	Informal relations
ITALY	December 1973	July 1974	No	No (the NC may consult the collections of the NL)	No
JAPAN	April 1975	January 1976	Yes	Yes	Yes
MALAYSIA (the NC forms part of the South-East Asia RC)	June 1976	July 1977	No	Yes	Yes
MEXICO	No reply to the questionnaires				
MONGOLIA (the NC comes under the Moscow RC)	No reply to the questionnaires				
MOROCCO	No reply to the questionnaires				
NETHERLANDS	No reply to the questionnaires				
NEW ZEALAND	July 1975 (agreement in Sept. 1975)*	January 1976	No	Yes	Yes

* Information obtained from sources other than the questionnaires.

NIGERIA	April 1976	April 1976	Yes	Yes	The NC exchanges bibliographic information with the NBA
NORWAY	No reply to the questionnaires				
PHILIPPINES	No reply to these questions			The NC may consult the collections of the NL	No
				Reply from the NBA	
POLAND (the NC forms part of the Moscow RC)	1977	1977	Yes	Yes	Yes
SINGAPORE (the NC belongs to the South-East Asia RC)	April 1976	March 1977	No	Yes	Yes
SWEDEN	May 1975	September 1975	No	Yes	Yes
THAILAND RC & NC	1976	1976	No	Yes	Yes
TUNISIA	1974	1976	No	Yes	
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS - RC	[1973]*	[1975]*	No reply to the questionnaires		
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS - NC	June 1976	June 1976	No	Yes	Yes
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	1974	1974	No	Yes	Yes
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	April 1972	September 1972	Yes	Yes	No (no national bibliography)
URUGUAY	No reply to the questionnaires				
YUGOSLAVIA	No reply to the questionnaires				

* Information obtained from sources other than the questionnaires.

RECENTLY ESTABLISHED CENTRES AND THOSE UNDER NEGOTIATION

COUNTRY	Date of establishment of the centre	Date on which it became operational	Accession to Statutes	Administrative or formal relations with	
				National library	National bibliography
ALGERIA	No reply		Yes	No reply to the questionnaires	
BELGIUM	No reply to the questionnaires				
EGYPT	No reply to the questionnaires				
INDIA	The centre has not yet been established; it is planned to open it in 1978			The centre will have to establish relations with these bodies	
SENEGAL	No reply to the questionnaires				
SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	No reply		Yes	No reply to the questionnaires	

ANNEX 3

LOCATION OF ISDS CENTRES

NATIONAL LIBRARIES (28)

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Denmark
France
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Hungary
Ireland
Israel
Japan
Malaysia
Morocco (General Library and Archives)
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Poland
Singapore
Sweden
Thailand (RC)
Thailand (NC)
Tunisia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (1)

Finland

INDEPENDENT BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTRES (3)

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (NC)
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (RC)
Yugoslavia

RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (12)

Algeria
Argentina
Brazil
Colombia
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
India
Indonesia
Italy
Mexico
Mongolia
Philippines

ANNEX 4

LOCATION OF THE ISDS/NC[1]

Sponsoring bodies	Allied services	Working relations with the national bibliographic agency
I. NATIONAL LIBRARIES (A) The NC is fully integrated into the national library		
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - the NL does the work of the centre		Parallel activities: the national bibliography and the common registration of data relating to ISDS and ASPRI (the international registration system of the socialist countries)
BULGARIA - the NL is the ISDS centre; an independent centre is unnecessary		The centre only exists through the support of the NBA whose functions it would duplicate
(B) National bibliographic agencies Common management by the NBA of the functions of the NC and the national bibliography		
MALAYSIA - national bibliography division	Legal deposit	The processes are different but the personnel are the same; this state of affairs is unsatisfactory
SINGAPORE - catalogue division		Idem. The question of relations does not therefore arise
THAILAND (RC)		Idem. Close co-operation with the NL
The NC comes under or is located near bibliographic and cataloguing services		
AUSTRALIA - central cataloguing unit, cataloguing section	Australian national bibliography	Joint activities; the records of the centre and the NBA are produced at the same time
AUSTRIA - Osterreichische national bibliographie, zeitschriften abteilung		Non-operational; links maintained with the NBA

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(1) No details available for the following countries: Belgium, Ireland, Morocco, Netherlands, Thailand, Algeria, Cuba.

CANADA - cataloguing branch, serials and special material catalogue division	National bibliographic agency	Effective co-operation. The NC is integrated into the Canadiana (serials) cataloguing process; joint action toward UBC
DENMARK - Danish department, Danish national bibliography of serials		No NBA as such in Denmark. The sections of the bibliography are produced by different organizations. However, the periodicals section and the ISDS are in close contact and located in the same department
FRANCE - centre bibliographique national, CNEPS	Bibliographie de la France, Supplément 1, Serials	The NC and the serials section of the bibliography operate under a common governing body. Close co-operation between them; problems are to be examined and solved in the same context until such time as there is integration within the framework of an automated system
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF - descriptive cataloguing department, serials division		Little communication; different cataloguing procedures and formats; this largely unsatisfactory situation will have to continue for the time being
HUNGARY - interlibrary services	National bibliography ISSN Agency (at the legal-deposit office)	Limited interchange of information: the registration field of the NBA is narrower than that of the centre
NEW ZEALAND - New Zealand national bibliography		The NBA cataloguing procedures should be transposed with a view to their adaptation to the "Guidelines". Interchange makes it possible to avoid duplication of effort
NIGERIA - no information		Close co-operation is desired; different cataloguing methods are used
NORWAY - Norwegian centre for the registration of serials		No information
POLAND - Instytut bibliograficzny	National bibliography (serials)	Automation should make it possible to standardize cataloguing which currently involves parallel operations

SWEDEN - bibliografiska institutet	National bibliography	Important aspect of co-operation with NBA: establishment of the key-title
TUNISIA - service documentaire (equivalent to the NBA)		Information interchange and numerous transfers between the NBA and the NC; systems to be simplified
UNITED KINGDOM - bibliographic services division, English language and copyright division	BUCOP (British Union Catalogue Of Periodicals)	The centre and the union catalogue come under the same governing body. Co-operation with the NBA is good but it could be closer if compatible rules were followed
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - serial record division	New serial titles (union catalogue) Post-edit group (relations with CONSER)	Integrated into the cataloguing operations of the Library of Congress. No NBA as such; the NST takes its place
Other locations		
ISRAEL - co-ordinator of technical services, union catalogue division	National bibliographic agency	Formal relations with the NBA remain to be established
JAPAN - international co-operation section, division for inter-library services		Semi-independence and little relationship with the NBA

II. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Sponsoring bodies	Allied services	Working relations with the national bibliographic agency
FINLAND - bibliographic department, NBA, national bibliography office	Standard registration agency	Closer co-operation is sought with a view to automation

III. INDEPENDENT BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTRES

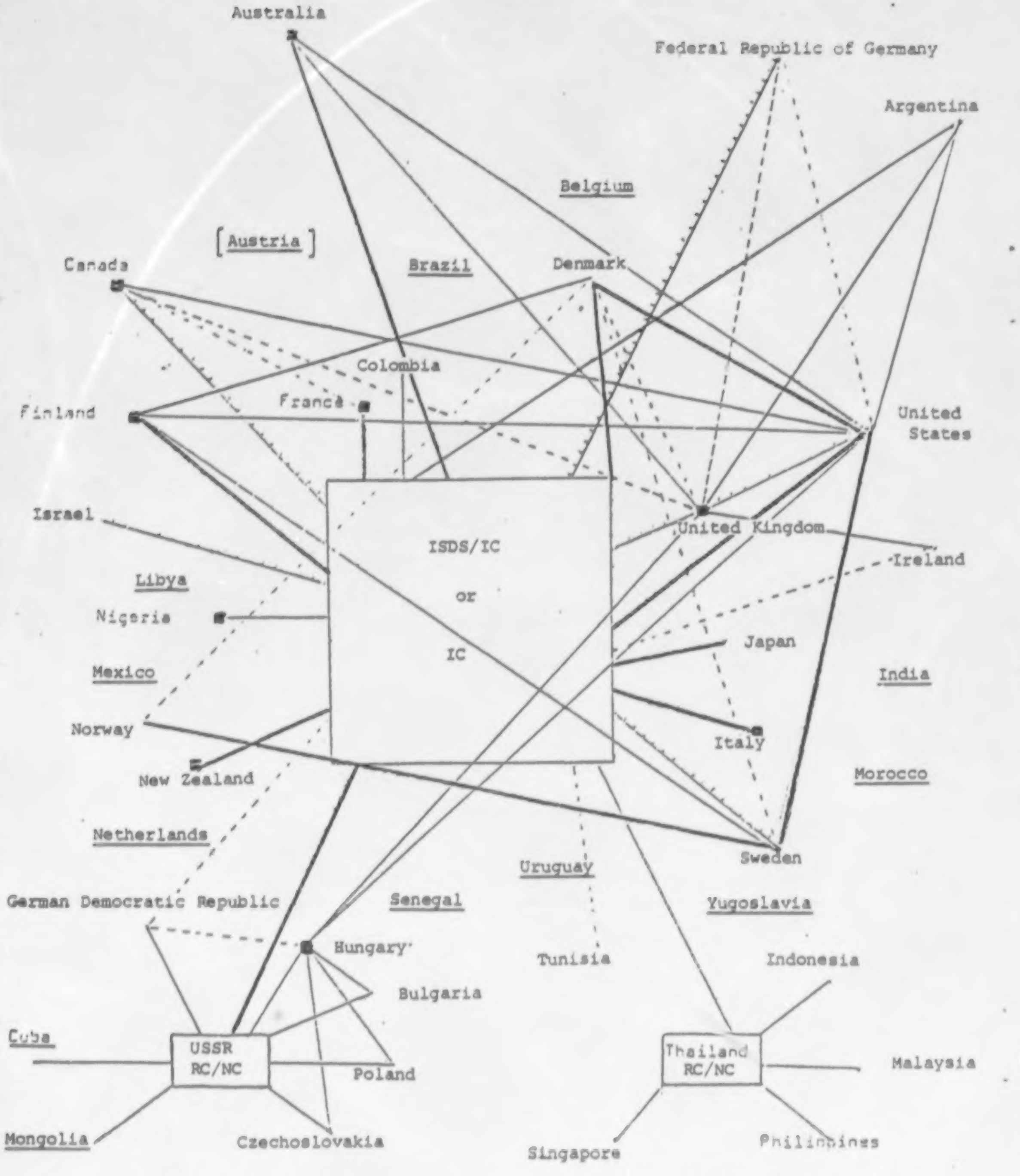
Sponsoring bodies	Allied services	Working relations with the national bibliographic agency
USSR - Federal Chamber of Books (VKP)	National bibliographic service, preparation of the "Letopis", the search service concerned with the international registration of printed publications	The ISDS and the national bibliography complete each other but have quite distinct aims: the ISDS descriptions are used in international interchanges and the records of the national bibliography are for internal use. With the automation of the "periodicals" section of the bibliography, the present forms of co-operation could be re-examined
YUGOSLAVIA - Yugoslav bibliographic institute		No information

IV. DOCUMENTATION CENTRES

Sponsoring bodies	Allied services	Working relations with the national bibliography or the NBA
ARGENTINA - Centro argentino de información científica y tecnológica (CAICYT)	Serials union catalogue of the scientific and technical libraries of Argentina	None. It would like to see the co-ordination of the various activities and the solution of the question of bibliographic control of serials by the national bibliography
BRAZIL - Instituto brasileiro de informação em ciência e tecnologia (IBICT)	National union catalogue. List of Brazilian scientific and technical periodicals	Very occasional informal relations. The NBA would like to see closer relations. The IBICT centre is responsible for the control of national scientific and technical periodicals
COLOMBIA - Instituto colombiano para el fomento de la educación superior (ICFES) División de documentación y información	Programa de normalización de la documentación. National periodicals catalogue ISDS programme	In theory, the activities should be complementary; in actual fact, there is no link with the NL

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - Ústředí vědeckých technikých a ekonomických informací		The NBA belongs to the ASPRI system for serial publications concerning the human sciences and the State technical library for scientific and technical periodicals
INDIA - Indian national scientific documentation centre, New Delhi	Union catalogue section	The centre is not yet operational. The NBA in Calcutta has a complementary role. Relations to be established: the union catalogue will provide facilities, material and experience
INDONESIA - national scientific documentation centre (PDIN - Pusat dokumentasi Ilmiah Nasional)		The NBA would like to see closer co-operation
ITALY - Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche, Istituto di studi sulla ricerca e sulla documentazione, Rome		The organizational structure of the bibliography is complicated: NL in Florence and Rome + Instituto centrale per il catalogo unico, Rome
MEXICO - Consejo nacional de ciencia y tecnologia		No information
MONGOLIA - scientific and technical information centre		No information
PHILIPPINES - national science development board, scientific library and documentation division		The NBA hopes to bring about closer co-operation and co-ordination with the recently established centre to which it makes available all the bibliographic material that it receives

ANNEX 5


Australia
Federal Republic of Germany
Argentina
Belgium
[Austria]
Brazil
Denmark
Canada
Colombia
France
Finland
United States
ISDS/IC or IC
Israel
United Kingdom
Ireland
Libya
Nigeria
Japan
Mexico
India
Norway
Italy
New Zealand
Morocco
Netherlands
Uruguay
Sweden
German Democratic Republic
Senegal
Yugoslavia
Hungary
Tunisia
Indonesia
Bulgaria
Cuba
USSR RC/NC
Poland
Thailand RC/NC
Malaysia
Mongolia
Czechoslovakia
Singapore
Philippines

ISDS RELATIONS AS SEEN BY THE CENTRES ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY (2nd half of 1977)

■ = existence of an ISBN centre which has dealings with the ISDS/NC

━━ monthly dealings

── regular dealings

- - - - occasional dealings

┼┼┼┼ dealings more frequent than once a month

[ ] non-operational centres

India centres currently being established and/or which did not answer the questionnaire

CHAPTER 3

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CENTRES

Part of the preceding chapter was devoted to a description of the preliminary steps involved in establishing a centre. It is not enough for the centre to select a suitable organizational structure for its location. It also has to determine the necessary operational methods and accurately evaluate:

the volume of documents to be processed, on the basis of statistical data on current serials and the number of new titles published each year; the extent of bibliographic coverage, taking into account the existence of factors likely to increase it (data bank, automated catalogue, etc.);

facilities giving access to the files and source documents which affect the time needed for search operations;

the centre's methods of operation - whether it is an independent centre or a centre linked to a bibliographic system capable of providing it with financial assistance or experienced personnel.

3.1 Personnel

3.1.1 Size of staff

This preliminary analysis will give a rough idea of the foreseeable work-load and perconnel requirements. It has, without the slightest doubt, been a subject of concern to all centres.(1)

In 1975, the meeting of centre directors estimated that a medium-size centre needed a staff of around four if it was to be operational. The publication by the ISDS/international centre of a manual for the use of ISDS members should go some way in meeting their expectations.

Since then it has been possible to draw on the experience of the 18 countries which in their replies to the survey questionnaire gave information on their personnel (cf. Table 1 further below). A number of countries also provided details on the assignment of their personnel (Annexes 1 and 2 at the end of the chapter) and several sent in organizational charts showing task distribution. Alongside columns 1 to 4 which give the information on the personnel and their duties, the volume of work carried out is specified, for purposes of guidance, in terms of:

the number of transmittal sheets forwarded to the international centre each year;

the number of ISSNs assigned since the establishment of the centres;

the number of titles published in 1977 in the International Register.

However, it should be borne in mind that such quantitative data fail to give a complete picture of the activity of a national centre or regional centre.

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(1) cf. reply from the Israeli centre: forecasts made prior to signature of the agreement with the ISDS/international centre "Establishing an ISDS national centre" (notes based on Canada's manual system experience).

TABLE 1

ISDS CENTRES - NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND PROCESSING VOLUME

1977, second half-year

Country	Personnel by categories			Total	Transmittal sheets processed each year	ISSN assigned since...	ISSN published in the International Register	Observations
	Director	Librarians	Administrative personnel					
Argentina		1		1		Nov.1974→ 700	517	The number of registrations is limited owing to the shortage of personnel. It is not possible to handle all publications.
Australia	1	2 (1)	½	3½	1,100 (average)	1974→ 4,607+	2,799	(1) One cataloguer is responsible for the ISSN assignment programme, in conjunction with the NBA - the shortage of computer personnel holds up the dispatch of tapes - the NC has provided an organizational chart showing task distribution.

Key: + Periodicals and series; ++ Only periodicals.

N.B.: The date given in column 6 (ISSN assigned since ...) refers to the year the centre became operational. Ten countries provided incomplete information, 8 did not answer the questionnaire, 4 did not answer this question.

Brazil		1 librarian + 1 part-time trainee		1½	250	1977→ 387++	518	Recently established centre.
Canada	1	1 + 2 assistant librarians	2	6	7,246 (1977-1978)	1974→ 13,822+(1)	3,193	(1) April 1978: 17,575. It was possible to obtain additional personnel to take up the retrospective work resulting from the CONSER programme.
Denmark		2 part-time librarians		1	452		191	Current registrations from 1 July 1976; retrospective registrations planned for the 1950-1970 register of the Danish bibliography.
France	1	5(1)+3(2)	1	10	3,000	1975→ 8,410+ (including user requests)	2,729	(1) Assigned to the numbering system of the "Bibliographie de la France". (2) Assigned to publisher liaison (cf. Annex 2).
Germany (Federal Republic of)	1	1 head librarian + 3 librarians	2	7	2,600	Since Nov.1974→ 4,950+(1)	2,983	(a) 8,400 in May 1978 (since the beginning), 9,100 in the data base. (b) +800 in the base file. The number of registrations is limited owing to the shortage of personnel.
Hungary	1	1+1 assistant librarian	½	3½	1,350	Nov.1976→ 1,668+	353	The present organizational set-up is temporary. The personnel are experienced but insufficient. They have been trained for this work since 1973. There is an ISSN Agency.

Country	Personnel by categories			Total	Transmittal sheets processed each year	ISSN assigned since...	ISSN published in the International Register	Observations
	Director	Librarians	Administrative personnel					
Israel		1(1)		1		1977→ 54	112	Recently established centre. (1) A librarian working under the supervision of the Chief of the Union Catalogue Division.
Italy	1		2	3	580	July 1974→ 2,250+	1,242	
Japan		1 specialist	½	1½	1,167	1976→ 1,167(1)	1,533	(1) March 1978: 1525 ISSN - for purposes of guidance: 12,626 titles were received on legal deposit in 1974.
New Zealand		1 part-time librarian		½	141	1976→ 296+(1)	124	(1) Including revision of the base file - minimum number of personnel allowing for management in conjunction with the NBA; to be considered as a point of departure for the extension of the system.
Nigeria	1	1 assistant	1	3	74	1976→ 101+(1)	61	- Shortage of qualified personnel; the assistant librarian currently working at the centre was trained at the IC.

								- For purposes of guidance: 23 titles were received on legal deposit in 1976. (1) April 1978: 450 ISSN.
Sweden	1	1	1	3	1,100	1975→ 3,350+	382	Automation will depend on the number of personnel available.
Thailand (RC)	1+1 "co-ordinator"	1+2½ computer experts + 1 operator	1½	8	January 1977 to March 1978 (1) 979		30	(1) Figures given for the 5 countries of the South-East Asia R.C. For purposes of guidance: from January 1977 to March 1978: 122 for Thailand.
Tunisia			½	½(1)	100	1976→ 143	11	A combination of an excessively complex organizational set-up and outdated tasks. There was previously no permanent staff. This part-time worker collects documentation, handles new publications (since 1976) and retrospective bibliographies, and assigns an ISSN to important publications.
United Kingdom	1+1 assistant (1)	2 librarians + 1 trainee		4	1,786 (from March 1977 to February 1978)	1974→ 6,000+	4,211	(1) On a part-time basis: both are also responsible for running the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals.

Country	Personnel by categories			Total	Transmittal sheets processed each year	ISSN assigned since...	ISSN published in the International Register	Observations
	Director	Librarians	Administrative personnel					
United States	1(1)+2 computer staff	9	2	14(2)	7,000 (on tape since 1976)	September 1972; 35,295+	9,192	(1) Comes under the Head of the Serial Record Division. (2) Figure for September 1978. Annotated organizational chart supplied (cf.Annex 1).

TABLE 1(a)

VOLUME OF MATERIAL PROCESSED+ - COMPLEMENTARY DATA

Country	Transmittal sheets forwarded each year	ISSN assigned since ...	December 1977: ISSN published in the International Register
Austria			259
Bulgaria			159
Colombia		July 1976 → 183	82
Czechoslovakia	772(2)		566
Finland	817	1975 → 1,434	715
German Democratic Republic	135	Dec. 1974 → 400	360
India			750
Indonesia	148(1)		118
Ireland			51
Malaysia	111		105
Philippines	438		87
Poland		July 1977 → 130	201
Singapore	160	Dec. 1977 → 109	32
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	(209)(1)	1976 → 9,000	2,925

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(1) From 1977 to March 1978.
(2) In 1977; titles prepared by the Czechoslovak NC for ISDS, through ASPRI.
+ Point 10 of the questionnaire sent to ISDS centres.

In all these cases, it would have also been useful to be able to refer to the overall volume of current titles or titles received on legal deposit. For purposes of guidance, any available figures have been given in the "Observations" column.

As the registration methods and definitions vary from country to country, these statistics have to be treated cautiously since they are far from uniform. Accordingly, the representativeness of the figures has been specified wherever possible, descriptively and in terms of time.

Despite their degree of unreliability - which is partly due to the imprecise terminology already criticized in this study - these approximate figures, which are not comparable in mathematical terms, may still be significant enough to be useful.

Bearing in mind these points, an examination of Table 1 leads to the following observations.

(a) Representativeness

The country sample is sufficiently significant, even though it is small: it involves 17 national centres and one of the two regional centres (Thailand RC). Incomplete data on ten or so other centres has been entered on a second table (cf. p. 81).

One point to be considered is the length of time centres have been operational. A number of centres have been operational for a very short time (Brazil, Israel, Tunisia). Others began with limited resources (Japan and New Zealand for example) or, after a few years of activity, seem to have been held back by personnel problems (particularly Argentina and Denmark) and in some cases have even had to halt their automation projects. There are also a number of medium-size centres (with 4-7 persons on the staff). Lastly, the very large United States national centre has an even greater number of personnel (14) than the international centre (8), which would be expected to have at least equivalent facilities.

In theory, the number of personnel should be proportional to the number of serials to be handled in each country, and a centre should be able to become operational with a librarian and a clerk. In actual fact, some centres are functioning without this minimum staffing level, even after the initial phase. It appears that most of the centres, including those with the best facilities, suffer from a chronic shortage of personnel.

(b) The personnel categories working at the centres are much the same: the director and associated personnel, professional librarians or cataloguers (who are often experienced in serials handling techniques as they have worked in the bibliographic and cataloguing services or the union catalogues of the national bibliographic agency) and administrative personnel. Such personnel are absolutely essential if ISDS responsibilities are to be carried out fully.

The employment of computer experts is only expressly mentioned in two cases: the United States centre and the Thailand centre, which as a regional centre assumes special responsibilities and provides technical facilities for setting up and managing a data bank from participants' input. In other countries where the automation process is under way or nearing completion, the specialized personnel either work in close liaison with or are selected from the members of the central system team engaged in the overall planning of the automation of the national library or the body serving as a national library.

3.1.2 Professional training: the pooling of experiences within the ISDS

We would again (cf. p. 59) like to stress the importance of personnel training - irrespective of the category involved - whether in a specialized task or as a way of helping personnel to adapt to their new duties.

(a) In this connection, the ISDS international centre undertakes a wide range of educational activities (instruction of trainees from new centres, visits by personnel from fully operational centres, the interchange of information and experiences at meetings of centre directors, active participation in training seminars, advice on problems encountered by members in the course of their routine activities, the preparation of manuals and guides, etc.).

(b) As recalled in the resolution passed by the Governing Board in April 1978, regional centres (and the national centres) are required to share training responsibilities with the international centre, by placing their technical and professional experience at the service of the network as a whole.

As we have seen, the Thailand regional centre combined the resources of a number of affiliated countries to give their centres easier access to computer facilities. The same kind of co-operation has made it possible to solve the various difficulties involved in finding competent personnel.

This regional centre has made a special effort to promote on-the-job training through:

meetings (two were held in Bangkok on 17-19 March 1976 and 14-18 November 1977), followed up by systematic ISDS training courses;

practical training courses (one week and three weeks) aimed at providing essential knowledge of information and programming techniques used at the international centre.

(c) On several occasions, national centres have been associated with such projects. The Australian national centre participated in the running of the second training course in Bangkok and took two trainees from the South-East Asia centre for three weeks in August-September 1977. Several months later, the Nigerian national centre and national library organized, with the assistance of Unesco and the ISDS international centre, a "Regional Seminar on Bibliographic Control in Africa" (Lagos, 30 January-3 February 1978) devoted to studying and disseminating among the African professional community - particularly publishers - the ISBD(S) and ISDS rules for the description and identification of serials.

There is every indication that such activities will become more common; established members of the ISDS will impart the benefits of their experience to new members or countries with limited resources. As we have seen, this is certainly the intention of the governing bodies of the ISDS.

3.2 Organizational structure

The organizational charts reproduced at the end of the chapter provide an annotated hierarchical schema of the various posts at the centres (Annexes 1 and 2).

3.2.1 General policy

The ISDS Guidelines assign the centres (p. 6, paragraph 2.4.1) two objectives which have to be balanced:

to assure bibliographic control of serials by systematic registration;

to respond to current user demand.

On the basis of these guidelines, the internal organization of the centres seems to be geared to two distinct areas of activity:

one is created by an existing national bibliography (or union catalogue) which records ISSN and key-titles so that the urgency of assigning numbers and establishing key-titles depends on its publication frequency;

the other is concerned with the external relations of the centre, replies to user requests and, more especially, with publisher liaison.

The only variations that may occur in this arrangement concern, in the first case, the order in which NBA cataloguing and ISDS identification are carried out (or a complete lack of synchronization)(1) and the extent of information interchange between the two. In the second case, specific features of the local bibliographic system may vary.

3.2.2 Operational details: the assignment of ISSN

The successive stages were described in 13 out of 40 replies to the questionnaire.(2)

The following procedure is generally adopted:

(a) The assignment of the ISSN is preceded by a search to establish whether a number has previously been allotted. Where available, the following reference material is consulted:

the national extract from the ISDS Register together with its supplements (the ISDS Bulletin in print form or on microfiches);

the files of the centre concerned;

the Bowker directories (Ulrich's international periodicals directory and Ulrich's irregular serials and annuals);

the 1950-1970 cumulative of the New Serial Titles.

This search has to be conducted very thoroughly. Where possible, it should be checked by a second operator. The risks of error are increased by the wide range of sources to be consulted and differences in cataloguing practices. Furthermore, the last three reference works (for greater convenience the United States centre has preferred to amalgamate them into a single COM file) which contain 300,000 ISSN are not always reliable: a single ISSN may correspond to several titles and, inversely, a single title may have several ISSN, which is against ISDS rules. These incorrect numbers may have already been disseminated to publishers. Before any further assignment of ISSN, it is essential to rectify any errors little by little without making the situation worse.

(b) Assignment of ISSN and processing

If no existing ISSN is discovered, the next stage is to assign a new number from the block allocated by the international centre (or transmitted by the regional centre). The centre then proceeds to process the serial, giving the key-title and specifying the identifying data elements required by the ISDS. This information is entered on the transmittal sheet and then checked. Photocopies of the title pages are appended to the documents, which are forwarded to the international centre if the centre is independent, or otherwise to the regional centre responsible for the centre concerned.

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(1) See Chapter 2, Establishment of the centres.

(2) Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Thailand, United States of America.

If the centre is automated, the transmittal sheet data are entered onto magnetic tape and the input is forwarded to Paris (Denmark, United States, United Kingdom, USSR).

At the same time, the centre puts together ISSN files containing the duplicates of dispatched transmittal sheets and any related documents. It is also necessary to build up a series of working files arranged in alphabetical order of the key-titles (with variant titles and amended titles), publishers files giving the ISSN assigned to their publications, and various other files (on discontinued ISSN, generic words, etc.) which may facilitate routine operations.

3.2.3 The handling chain

All these operations are carried out on a fairly similar basis at the various centres. While both the material resources and the volume of data certainly differ, the quality and effectiveness of a centre's work are primarily related to the way it is incorporated at a specific point in the general handling chain and the extent to which it is associated - or not - with similar forms of bibliographic activity.

There are two basic handling patterns and a number of exceptional cases.

(a) The most frequent pattern is for a serial (a new title or an amended title) to be processed by the national bibliographic agency and then forwarded to the ISDS which uses the source document and the bibliographic catalogue record.

Out of the 28 countries which provided detailed information on this point, 17 adopt this procedure although there is considerable variation in the way the transmitted elements are processed: Canada, Finland, France, Hungary, Nigeria, New Zealand, Singapore, Tunisia. This procedure is also followed by Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Sweden and the USSR which note that it is not two-way: the national bibliographic agency does not use the data extracted by the ISDS. On the other hand, information is exchanged on a two-way basis in Thailand. This group should also include the United States where either the ISDS centre or the bibliographic service may process the publication first, and the Israeli national centre which refers to both the catalogues of the national bibliography and the union catalogue.

An exceptional case is that of Australia where the ISDS and national bibliographic records are prepared simultaneously.

(b) Three countries (Brazil, Denmark, United Kingdom) adopt the reverse order. They apply separate cataloguing procedures, which do not exclude information interchange (United Kingdom).

(c) Lastly, in eight countries, there is little or no contact and the ISDS centres and other agencies operate almost independently, regardless of whether information sources are common or separate (Argentina, Colombia, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Philippines).

The overall process is made even more complex in the case of a pre-existing periodicals registration system with handling procedures to be combined or coordinated with those of the national bibliography and the ISDS centre. This is particularly the case of the ASPRI system in Eastern Europe.

This schematic description of the way serials data are forwarded from service to service so that each can compile its own records embraces every conceivable form of co-operation, from the most occasional to the closest.

Most countries tend to favour the procedure whereby the serial is forwarded to the body responsible for the national bibliography. Nevertheless, the work still has to be organized in such a way as to avoid any duplication of effort. In this respect, many countries actively seek to establish a handling chain, as far as possible integrating ISDS activities into the general cataloguing system (Australia, Canada, Hungary, Sweden, United States). However, it is expected that present differences will be reduced through the adoption of the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD(S)) or through its incorporation into the national cataloguing rules.(1)

In the United States, for example, the activities of the NSDP (National Serials Data Program), which is the ISDS correspondent, are integrated into the general periodicals handling circuit of the Library of Congress, which culminates in the CONSER data base, the production of MARC/S tapes and the conversion of various elements intended for ISDS use. The latter operation was made possible by structuring the input so as to allow for the automatic extraction of ISDS elements.

Like the Post-Edit Group concerned with descriptive cataloguing, the NSDP plays a central role in the framework of the CONSER project. It controls the validity of the essential ISDS data elements for titles introduced by participating libraries. It makes use of the advantages of data-processing facilities and interactive systems to interrogate the base, retrieve information in visual displays or in print-out form, directly input its validated records and complete various extensive ISSN dissemination tasks.

The need for such development is now widely felt and all the questionnaires voice the desire to see a further improvement in existing relations through the NBA-NC pattern. A number of countries (Denmark, Finland, Poland, United Kingdom, USSR) note in passing that the introduction of computer facilities should be an additional simplifying factor, which is necessary if the management costs of a system are to be reduced.

However, even if we leave aside the question of whether a centre should or should not be automated, it cannot be denied that any such attempt at rationalization can only benefit a manual centre. This kind of experiment has been carried out in France, where the "serials" section of the Bibliographie de la France and the ISDS centre (cf. Annex 2, Chapter 3) come under a single governing body. The centre is part of the bibliographic system. It prepares its manual records on the basis of research carried out by the cataloguing service for new titles and amended titles. This time-saving arrangement enables it to increase the number of ISSN assigned. An average of 500 ISSN a month are assigned by five cataloguers to titles which are to be recorded in the national bibliography. This figure is significant if it is compared with the hundred or so ISSN assigned by the three cataloguers concerned with publisher liaison: they have to carry out all the steps involved in reconstructing the bibliographic history of the periodical before they can proceed with identification according to ISDS rules. The French centre takes the view that its success in assigning ISSN to 15,000 titles (October 1978) with the limited resources available since its establishment is due to its organizational structure which associates it closely with the work of the national bibliography and decision-making within the context of a common policy.

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(1) See Chapter 4.

The point of this example is to emphasize, by reference to a specific system which could be applied to a centre using manual records or equally well to one in the process of automation, the importance of choosing a flexible, integrated form of organization which has been adapted as a result of various trial procedures and successive modifications in relation to the context and the results to be obtained. It is not a question of imposing a new administrative system on a rigid structure without the latter undergoing any modification: the introduction of the ISDS centre transforms the existing mechanisms and situations and creates a need for functional solutions.

Being incorporated into a suitable bibliographic framework, the centres are able not only to operate more efficiently but also use this framework in order to disseminate the results of their activities.

The ISSN, which is assigned in relation to the frequency at which the national bibliography is published, is one of the elements specified in the serials records of this bibliography.(1) The use of the ISSN has since been gradually extended to other records in the field of library science. They are beginning to appear in certain retrospective national bibliographies (Australian and Danish projects) or specialized bibliographies; in the catalogues of major libraries (the Royal Library of Stockholm, for example, or the catalogue of the Japanese National Diet Library, in the case of scientific and technical titles); union catalogues, the abstracts of articles in specialist journals and other works produced by the abstracting services. They are (or will be) registered by CONSER data banks in the United States or the "Biblio-data" search system in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Such dissemination, which is facilitated by the fact that the centres belong to established structures, is primarily the outcome of the patient work involved in transmitting information and penetrating the national bibliographic system, to be studied in the following section. This work corresponds to the second of the objectives of the national centres outlined in the "Guidelines for ISDS".

3.3 Relations with users

Research into user relations and the maintenance of external contacts represent a distinctly separate field of activity to which medium-sized and large centres frequently assign personnel specially trained for this work. In a number of socialist countries, such work is done by the ISSN Agency.

The centres cater for several categories of users. With a few exceptions which vary according to specific national situations, the categories of users for which the centres cater are much the same:

the abstracting and indexing services of the Abstracting Office of the International Council of Scientific Unions (BA) compile for the latter lists of reference material, including serials, and produce abstracts of the articles in these publications. These lists are combined to form an aggregate list which has to be given ISSN and key-titles assigned by the corresponding ISDS centre. This important activity needs to be carried out with the utmost urgency. In this context, the successive ICSU/BA priority dispatches to the Japanese centre put a strain on the national centre, which already had a heavy work-load;

manual union catalogues and, in particular, automated union catalogues (using the batch processing method or the conversational mode) that register national and foreign current titles, are moving towards accelerated retrospective numbering, which is already practised widely in the United Kingdom and the United States where the CONSER data bases now input all serials after a number has been assigned to them by the NSDP. This trend should become more marked in the future, as numerous centres wish to use the ISSN as a search key for their data bases (CONSER, BLAISE, Biblio-data) or their current or planned union catalogues (Argentina, Brazil, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia);

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(1) Information non-limitative provided by Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom.

the other ISDS centres with which operational relations are established, particularly in connection with requests for the assignment of ISSN received (national titles) or sent out (foreign titles);

documentation centres, official services, postal services and copyright services with which special links have been in connection with specific areas of activity. In this sense, the agreement signed by the American NSDP centre and the postal services represents a significant contribution to the extension of ISSN assignment. Under the terms of this agreement, the postal code previously used will, wherever possible, be replaced by the ISSN which will be used as a control number for serials franked at a special rate (second class). The registration of 13,000 additional titles should be completed by October 1978.

However, the most important of the centres' correspondents are unquestionably publishers.

Publishers

Chapter 1 (p. 21) dealt briefly with the publishing trade, particularly in terms of its overall structure, its role in the improvement of bibliographic coverage and special relations with ISDS centres. It is quite certain that the publications produced by the publishers, if they contain the reliable data elements essential to any standardization, are the very stuff of the ISDS activities.

Publishers are therefore the centres' main correspondents. The system could not conceivably operate without their membership secured as a result of extensive distribution of information; nor could the ISSN be disseminated without their agreement and participation. For this reason, close co-operation should be maintained with them.

(a) The search for contacts

One of the first steps taken by any centre at the outset of its activities is to publicize its existence and the aims of the system to which it belongs. Contacts are made with trade associations or with the publishers themselves, and in areas such as official publications where it is particularly difficult to establish relations. In this context, the NSDP has signed co-operation agreements with the United States Government Printing Office: the Canadian centre has developed similar agreements with the bibliographic agencies of the provincial governments, while the United Kingdom centre has also been engaged in standardizing its relations with HMSO (Her Majesty's Stationery Office), which is one of the major official publishers in the United Kingdom.

(b) The advance information campaigns conducted by the centres are essential, as may be seen from their annual reports, the problems on which they consult the international centre and their replies to the questionnaires. They often express their regret that a lack of resources keeps them from implementing the kind of intensive action which would be necessary. Colombia is developing a complementary programme which will be implemented in conjunction with the general documentation standardization programme with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the latter. Australia regrets that a shortage of resources prevents it from engaging in promotion activities aimed at publishers to the extent it would like. Similarly the United Kingdom centre regrets that a shortage of personnel means that its activities in this field are limited.

Dialogue is often difficult in developing countries since it is impossible to identify short-lived publishing ventures whose publication output is irregular and poorly organized. However, it is noted that in all the countries concerned, there is a certain reluctance to be overcome and areas where penetration is difficult, and from the very outset successive booster campaigns should be contemplated.

(c) Dissemination methods

Programmes designed to inform publishers and other users are undertaken, using a variety of methods which does credit to the spirit of initiative of the centres. The most conventional approaches involve:

sending out circulars either after systematic prospection among serials publishers (this method is referred to by the United States) or in response to requests for information on the assignment of ISSN (a procedure mentioned by various countries including Canada, France, Nigeria, New Zealand and the United Kingdom);

or the extensive dissemination of information literature: in May 1978, the Federal Republic of Germany provided information on the ISSN in an explanatory brochure which was sent to 3,200 different bodies (publishers, libraries, documentation centres, etc.). The availability of these brochures in professional circles reduced the number of requests for information made to the national centre. The Nigerian centre stated that in the past year it devoted a considerable amount of time to a wide range of promotional activities.

Numerous centres have published brochures on the ISSN. A good idea of the content of such publications may be obtained from an examination of the samples which have been sent to us (Australia, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, United States, France, Nigeria).(1)

They all refer to the definition of a "serial" accepted by the ISBD and the ISBD(S), with a view to establishing the scope of application of the ISSN. They give a brief historical survey and some information on the functioning of the national centre and point out the potential advantages in the adoption of the ISSN system by publishers and other users. They then go on to provide practical information on the structure of the ISSN and the procedures for ISSN assignment (the formulation of requests for assignment, directions, the role of publishers, etc.).

The American NSDP centre provides this information in three separate guides: "ISSN", "ISSN procedure for requesting assignment", and "ISSN publisher's guide" which is important in that it gives details on the recommended typographic presentation of the ISSN and information on the handling of major or minor title changes which may or may not call for a new ISSN. This information is illustrated with examples taken from the "Guidelines for ISDS".

The information media offer the centres a valuable opportunity to enter into contact with a wider public than can be reached through the post. In Nigeria, advertisements and articles have been published on a number of occasions in the daily press with a certain degree of success. However, in most cases, information on the ISDS and ISSN is provided in professional publications (the organs of the publishing trade, giving an additional opportunity for useful co-operation; library journals(1) and the journals of documentation centres and their professional associations). Reports issued by different centres on their activities have referred to several such instances out of the many which are too numerous to be mentioned here.

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(1) Denmark, Japan and Indonesia also mentioned the preparation of such brochures.

At the same time, the need was felt for more direct contact. Such contact has taken the form of meetings, addresses, conferences and, in particular, the organization in Lagos at the time of the "Regional Seminar on Bibliographic Control in Africa" (cf. this chapter, p. 83) of a special session attended by 35 participants from 11 African countries, members of the National Library in Lagos and Nigerian publishers.

If it had the necessary resources, the French centre would like to establish an "ISSN Information Office", as a public service to users providing:

general information;

immediate communication of assigned ISSN;

access to ISSN files and key-titles.

This office would also handle the procedure for assigning new ISSN.

(d) Results

The relations resulting from these different activities are generally described as good. Although varying degrees of satisfaction are expressed, the comments are positive. In all, the ISDS venture is received with an interest which grows steadily with the services provided and the degree of distinction which the centres succeed in lending to their image. The constant increase in the number of requests reflects the growing awareness by publishers of the need for the standardization of serials data.

Undoubtedly, the acceptance of ISDS has been aided in certain countries by the existence of various factors favouring the system. Publishers had been made aware of the problems involved by the slightly earlier introduction of the ISBN agencies which are managed by them.

Furthermore, the existence of a tradition of established relations with the legal-deposit office and the national bibliographic services already provided a suitable framework for new developments. On the other hand, in countries where these services were inadequate, the introduction of a system capable of filling the gaps was favourably received on all sides.

3.4 Co-operation and interchange

Co-operation between centres and publishers is gradually being built up through various forms of mutual assistance and through the actual services provided.

3.4.1 Co-operation provided by the national and regional centres

The centres establish relations with all categories of publishers: scientific and technical publishing firms, major publishers and small publishers, associations of all kinds and a variety of small, independent publishers of whom it is difficult to keep track (Denmark, France, Malaysia, United Kingdom). This work is facilitated by the fact that on principle, the centres try to meet every request made to them, even when this involves the laborious task of retrospectively numbering large collections. Upon completion of the bibliographic searches and the necessary checks, they lose no time in advising their correspondents of the ISSN assigned to their serials and use this opportunity to give any further information which they may require on the operational procedures of the system and their own responsibilities.

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(1) The yearbooks or journals of the NLs and their divisions frequently contain communications on the ISDS.

Furthermore, lists of ISSN and key-titles covering all the numbers assigned at national level with recent information not yet introduced into the international register are beginning to circulate or are being planned (cf. Chapter 1, p. 23).

After an initial attempt to produce an alphabetical index of 3,160 titles, which was well received by its 1,500 subscribers, the national centre of the Federal Republic of Germany has recently published a second edition, updated to 31 March 1978. This volume contains subject and alphabetical arrays and an ISSN index. Japan expected to be able to prepare, by 1978, a list of 4,800 new titles for distribution to a thousand or so publishers and other organizations.

A problem: control of the ISSN

The published lists, the ISDS Bulletin, the international register and its supplements are intended to disseminate ISSN and key-titles. They also make it possible to put right any inaccurate assignments corrected by the national and regional centres. In its most recent report on its activities,(1) the Hungarian centre notes that emphasis has been placed on this aspect of relations with publishers.

It is necessary to introduce continuous control of the ISSN used: besides the considerable number of assignments by Bowker, a certain proportion of which needed to be corrected,(2) there are many other divergences: they are connected with the structure of the ISSN (numerical positions not retained or varying codes added which are either alphabetical (country codes, initials of publishers, etc.) or numerical (volume number, serial number, etc.)). Other divergences arise from confusion of the respective roles of the ISBN and the ISSN: issues are numbered continuously or, inversely, an ISBN is assigned to each issue. Further differences stem from ignorance of the procedures for using the ISSN which is retained despite title changes.

Various practical problems also arise (replies from the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark). They are connected with the poor typographical presentation of the ISSN, which makes them difficult to identify and the dislike of using sets of figures which are visually unattractive (ISBN + ISSN for a volume forming part of a collection, for example; ISSN + ISSN for series or subseries; or different ISSN for a title and its supplement). They may be seen as representing reactions against some of the finer points of cataloguing, the logic of which is not always appreciated. In all such cases, the diplomatic approach adopted by the centres favours joint solutions.

Lastly, many centres would like to evaluate the proportion of ISSN used in relation to the numbers assigned. Some centres admit that they are puzzled over the choice of method to be used (France). In the meantime, trials have been carried out (Japan) or surveys conducted with incomplete results which the Federal Republic of Germany considers encouraging. One effective control point could be the legal-deposit system. This at any rate is the opinion of the NSDP which is advised by the Copyright Office that the ISSN is printed on publications received by it and can, by a process of deduction, send out reminders to publishers and so try to fill the gap between the assigned ISSN and the ISSN actually used. Other centres (Canada and Nigeria, for example) note issues of periodicals without an ISSN and also send out reminders to the publishers.

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(1) Report on the activities of the Hungarian national ISDS centre, May 1977-March 1978. Ottawa, Fourth Conference of Centre Directors, May 1978.

(2) The percentage is put at 3 (by Library of Congress) and at 20-30 by FASANA "Serial data control: current problems and prospects" in Journal of Library Automation 1976 (March), p. 27.

Through the national and regional centres the ISDS provides its members with working tools that are effective if used within well-defined limits.

We must now consider what inducement may lead them to accept pre-conditions which they might out of hand consider inconvenient, and what practical form their membership of the system takes.

3.4.2 The co-operation of the publishing trade

The most convincing arguments are of a practical nature. For publishers, the ISSN primarily represents a useful tool for identification and management, an economic means of communication between publishers, distributors, booksellers, abstracting services, subscription agencies and libraries, which speeds up commercial procedures and is well-suited to computer processing, data retrieval and transmission, and file updating. At international level, they see in it an opportunity for disseminating their publications in other countries.

Once these different aspects have aroused their interest, users willingly give their co-operation. Some of them publish articles on the ISDS in their columns; publishers' associations (Federal Republic of Germany) help to speed up the publication of recently assigned ISSN by mentioning them in announcements of new titles.

The CIP (cataloguing-in-publishing) programmes or the pre-publication assignment of ISSN carried out in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Nigeria, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, provide a framework in which publishers can deliver their new periodicals on legal deposit prior to publication, the records of such publications being prepared from proofs or pre-publication information. In this way, bibliographic records will refer to the ISSN from the very first issue.

In the United States, the Bowker Publishing Company, working in conjunction with the NSDP, has given considerable impetus to the dissemination of the ISSN since 1971. It has done so with a vast range of resources and a promptness of implementation which the ISDS network could not have matched in its early days (the 300,000 main records in the NST 1950-1970 cumulative were numbered in around 18 months). Notwithstanding the numerous criticisms, and the fact that the operation has not been without its adverse consequences, which still considerably affect the current work-load of the centres, it has not been entirely without positive results.

Conclusion

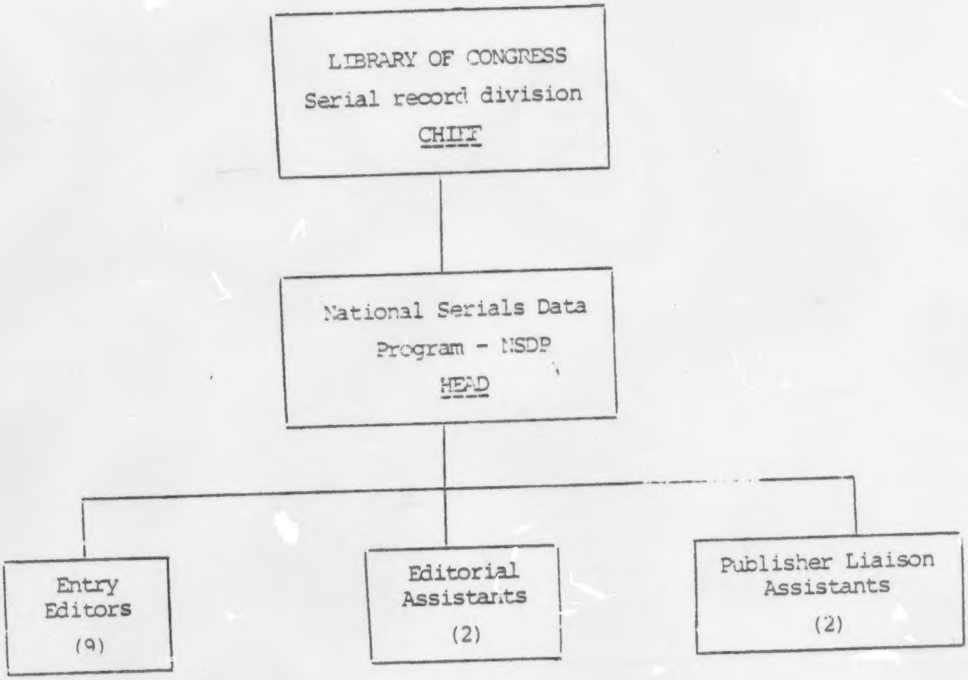
After a period of patient investigation carried out alongside their day-to-day work, the ISDS centres have over the past five years begun to demonstrate the advantages of the system. They co-operate closely with other bodies in the field of library science from whom they have received expressions of interest and practical assistance. But their aspirations in this connection are more far-reaching.

They seek to help their clientele to recognize the consistency and continuity of the standards, to make them aware of all the aspects of standardization and, by so doing, to improve national and international bibliographic control.

ANNEX 1

UNITED STATES - ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE AMERICAN ISDS CENTRE

NSDP


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Serial record division
CHIEF
National Serials Data Program - NSDP
HEAD
Entry Editors (9)
Editorial Assistants (2)
Publisher Liaison Assistants (2)

Key:		
	Entry editors	responsible for bibliographic handling and the assignment of ISSN
	Editorial assistants	searches, classification, typing, record input, etc.
	Publisher liaison assistants	responsible for relations with publishers (by post, telephone, etc.)

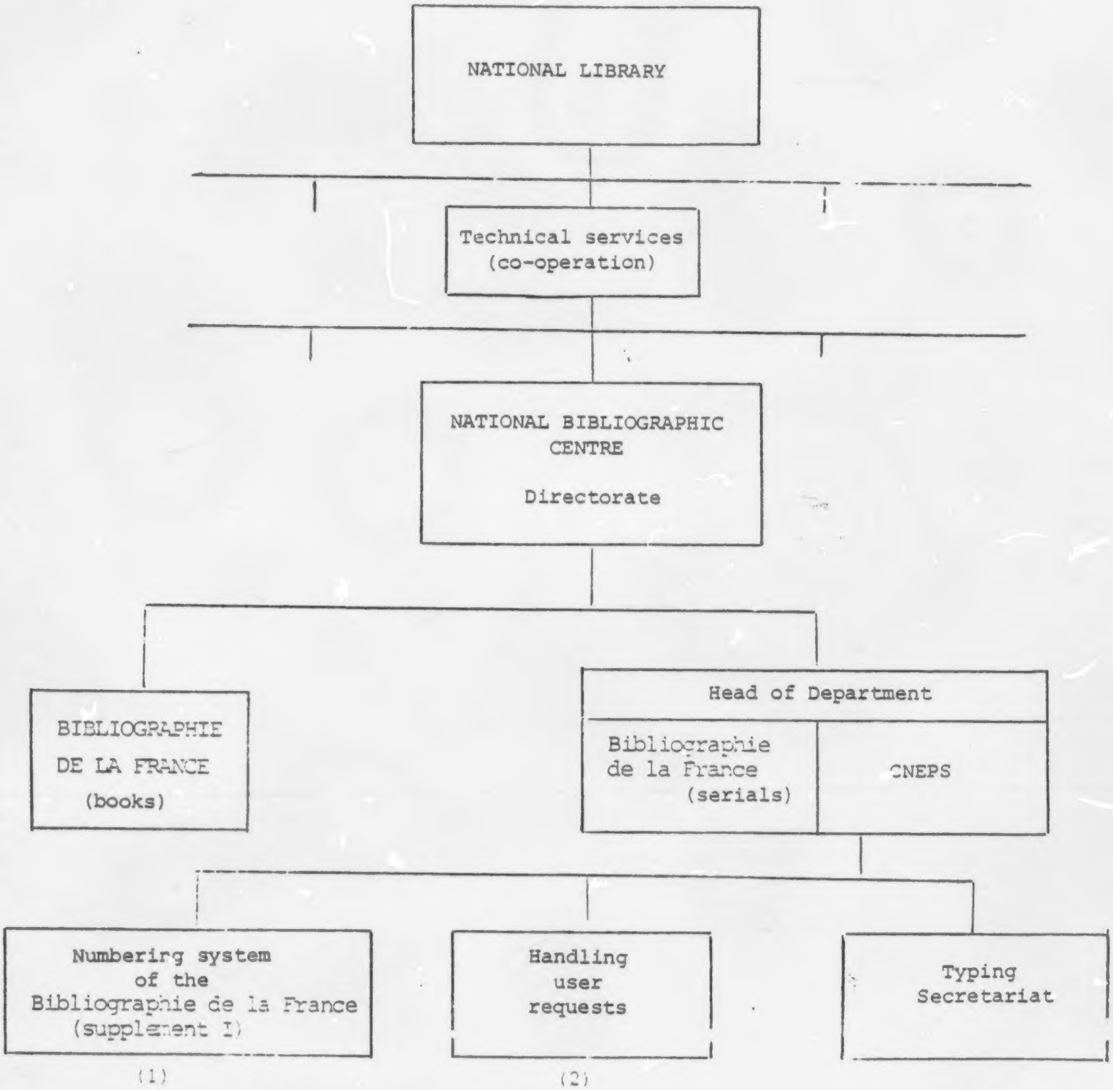
N.B.: The chief of the "Serial Record Division" is fully responsible for administrative matters pertaining to the ISDS.

Documentation sent by the Library of Congress, September 1978.

ANNEX 2

FRANCE - ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE NATIONAL SERIALS REGISTRATION CENTRE

(CNEPS)


NATIONAL LIBRARY
Technical services (co-operation)
NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTRE
Directorate
BIBLIOGRAPHIE DE LA FRANCE (books)
Head of Department
Bibliographie de la France (serials)
CNEPS
Numbering system of the Bibliographie de la France (supplement I)
(1)
Handling user requests
(2)
Typing Secretariat

(1) In sector 1 the work of the CNEPS is integrated with the bibliographic handling system.

(2) Sector 2 operates more idependently and is concerned with external matters.

CHAPTER 4

COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE HANDLING OF SERIALS BY ISDS CENTRES AND NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES

4.1 Data gathering through cataloguing

A study of the national bibliographies and the ISDS network shows that a growing number of countries are in the process of organizing a system for tracing, identifying or recording and, accordingly, handling serial publications. Anyone even slightly acquainted with "periodicals services" will agree that the effectiveness of such a venture will be jeopardized sooner or later unless it can rely on a single body of rules. It would therefore seem appropriate to preface our analysis of the cataloguing procedures described in the questionnaire replies with a number of theoretical observations on the essential aspects of identification and description, so as to assess whether the data collection methods applied by the ISDS and the national bibliographies provide users with working tools that are coherent and compatible.

4.1.1 The identification and description of serials: background and objectives

How is any agreement to be reached on the cataloguing of serials when the formulation of a definition broad enough to embrace all the aspects of this subject is in itself a major problem? Are not all the odds against it? We realize the force of such questions when we consider the most serious stumbling blocks that arise:

can serials and monograph descriptions be defined in the same terms?

how is the heading (or access point) to be regarded? Is it in this case comparable to the title proper?

what is a serial title?

when this title is altered, do we have a new publication or the same publication under a different title?

Again, everything rests upon a particularly loose terminology which varies not only from one country to the next but even among specialists themselves. The most serious aspects of the problem concern periodical citations and the union catalogues which represent a combination of many sources, generally with the title as the only access point. The priority task therefore is to deal successfully with the various approaches to the "entry" and bibliographic description which affect the identification of the data elements. Since the early seventies, this overriding consideration has given rise to a trend favouring truly international standards for handling serials.

(a) The choice of an identification system

The exponential development of periodical literature and data bases, the lack of universal cataloguing rules, and the various theoretical pitfalls outlined above were behind a growing feeling that the needs of the community of searchers, libraries and documentation centres had to be met urgently by the establishment of a single procedure for identifying serials. Such a procedure had to be independent of purely bibliographical considerations and not be hampered by the subtleties and refinements of national customs; it also had to be suited to computer technology. In this context, it became possible to hope that the "inherent problem" of serial publications could be surmounted.

But what system was to be chosen? The system had to be composed of univocal, concise data elements. It had to eliminate ambiguity, shorten citations and facilitate management. Such a system is easily outlined, but its implementation is more complicated.

Was it not possible to agree on the use of uniform title abbreviations? Such a simple idea might well have been attractive to the various authorities as it involved an economy of means. Furthermore, the abstracting services had a wealth of experience which could readily be tapped, while in 1972 the ISO approved the rules for the abbreviations of titles, for which it subsequently made the ISDS(1) responsible. Was it not possible to establish the standard citation as the means of identifying the serial? It seems that it was not - or at least the opportunity to do so was not taken. In actual fact, while such a method usually enables the original title to be reconstructed (Eg. J. Libr. Automat. for Journal of Library Automation), it does not provide any assurance that an abbreviation is unique, since words derived from the same root are abbreviated identically. Above all, it is bound by linguistic structures and consequently cannot be applied universally. Lastly, the resultant form is considered to be too long and uncertain for independent use in a computer-based system. Consequently, its use was recommended for citations and other means of giving bibliographic references.

Nevertheless, the need remained to register the shortest possible titles, particularly with a view to harmonizing the "entries" in serials union catalogues and simplifying their computerized handling, while keeping the cost of all these operations down to a minimum. Consequently, instead of systematically abbreviating each word of a title, it was considered sufficient to code the actual publication.

There are two ways of doing this: one is mnemonic and literal, the other is numerical and arbitrary. In theory, either system can be adopted as long as it meets a certain number of prerequisites:

the coding has to be unique;

it has to be concise;

the symbols used have to be universal;

the format has to be invariable;

the system has to contain a centralizing mechanism;

it has to ensure error control.

The early ISDS could have adopted the CODEN which met most of these requirements. It was designed for identification and is by nature mnemonic. Having been in existence for a number of years, it had already proven its worth. The CODEN was devised in the United States by Charles Bishop.(2) In its original form, it consisted of four capital letters.

Example: JBCH
for
Journal of Biological Chemistry

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(1) ISO 4 1972 (E) and ISO R 833 - 1974.

(2) Of the "Chronic Disease Research Institute", University of Buffalo, 1953.

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Example: NATU
for
Nature

The author of the system recommended that the use of two or more identical abbreviations should be avoided and discrepancies should be solved by adopting a centralized assignment mechanism. For citations, he suggested that the issue number and the pagination be added to the CODEN. By 1967, Bishop had established 4,000 CODEN. He handed the running of the system over to the A.S.T.M. (American Society for Testing Materials). This Society was replaced in 1967 by the Franklin Institute Research Laboratories of Philadelphia and in 1975 by the C.A.S. (Chemical Abstracts Service). In the meantime, the CODEN underwent various minor changes. Since 1966, it had taken the following form:

four letters representing the title words;

one letter serving to distinguish identical abbreviations.

Example: Special Libraries
- SPLB- A
A = complementary identification factor to be used if the four letters correspond to more than one serial, publication

The code is completed by a sixth element. This is a check character or check digit:

Example: JACS - AT (T = check character)
for
Journal of American Chemical Society

Example: JLAU - AY (Y = check character)
Journal of Library Automation

The growth of the CODEN was quite spectacular. The first register containing 40,000 CODEN was published in 1963. It was subsequently updated through annual supplements with a constant progression until 1977 when the C.A.S. published a 1954-1977 cumulated register of 145,000 CODEN. Furthermore, the CODEN have been established systematically since 1967 on the basis of the N.S.T. (New Serial Titles). They are prepared from a copy of the title page at the rate of 2,000 acronyms a month. The place of publication and any related CODEN are added to these acronyms.

Example: AADS - B - A.M.A.
Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology (Chicago)
(formerly ADSY - A) (changed to AMDE - A)

Example: ACRC - A - (Acta Iberica Radiológica -
cancerológica (Madrid) (Supersedes AIBR - A)

Finally, it should be noted that since 1967 the CODEN has been reproduced in the actual periodicals and is often accompanied by indications as to the volume, issue, pagination and year. In 1978, the CODEN system was still in use, even though it offered less scope for expansion. It has had a particularly powerful influence on scientific abstracting services of the North American school. However, while the CODEN is a data element in the ISDS format, the survey replies provide ample evidence that non-American bibliographic services are far from enthusiastic about it. However, in the early seventies, it still had considerable advantages, at first sight, in the sense that:

uniqueness seemed assured;

the CODEN was favourably regarded by American scientific publishers, abstracting services and certain union catalogues such as the BUCOP;

and its mnemonic nature was to ensure its acceptance, all the more specially as the use of letters ruled out any confusion with other codes, such as the ISBN. Less material errors would be made, even if the check character were omitted.

However, this optimistic analysis has to be offset by a number of other factors:

although an enthusiastic user may learn to recognize the abbreviations and systematically associate them with serial titles, the CODEN is mostly quite meaningless, as its real mnemonic value is inversely proportional to the degree of title contraction;

furthermore, the CODEN does not use a truly international notation: while the capitals of the Latin alphabet are certainly universally known, not every language can be transliterated;

the CODEN would be better known if it were not for the fact that it is believed - wrongly so - to be confined to strictly scientific publications;

lastly, the most serious criticism is undoubtedly that the basic structure (five letters), founded randomly on the word order in the title, may, if importance is given to maintaining its mnemonic character, result in too many identical CODEN, and is in that sense inadequate.

In view of these factors, it seemed just as well to introduce a new approach and give up the hope of obtaining a "microcopy" of the title, particularly when a rival identification procedure, particularly suited to computer techniques, was making its appearance in the United States. This was the "Standard Serial Number or SSN" which was endorsed(1) at the end of 1970 by the American Standards Organization. In May 1971, the SSN received the international label of the ISO. This development marked the birth of the ISSN (International Standard Serial Number). It involved assigning to each title a code consisting of a numerical sequence (seven figures(2) + one check digit), divided into two groups separated by a space dash space and in all cases preceded by the acronym ISSN.

Example: ISSN 0022 - 2240
for the
Journal of Library Automation

The check digit (here: 0) is always placed at the far right of the Code: it is determined on a modulus 11 basis, using the weighting factors 8 to 2 as follows:

Digits of the base number = 0 0 2 2 2 2 4

Weighting factors associated with each digit = - - 7 7 7 7 5

Multiplication of each digit in turn by its weighting factor = - - 14 14 14 14 20

Addition of these factors = - - 14+14+14+14+20=66

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(1) ANSI Z 39-9-1971 "Identification number for Serial publications".

(2) Arabic numerals from 0 to 9.

Division of this sum by the modulus 11 = 66 : 11 = 6, remainder 0

Subtraction of the remainder from 11 = 11 - 0 = 11

Result in the right-hand position of the base number = 0022 - 2240

N.B.: If the result of the subtraction is 10 (remainder = 1), the check letter is X.

If the result of the subtraction is 11 (remainder = 0), the check digit is 0.

This thus constitutes a reliable tool, which is free from the weaknesses of the CODEN, particularly in the following areas:

capacity of the system:	the set of seven arbitrarily selected digits provides a numbering basis which should easily take in the entire population of serials, whether past, present or to be produced in the future, regardless of the language or country in which they may have been or may be originally published;
choice of symbols:	letters or digits? The use of mnemonics was not given up without mature consideration. Finally, the diversity of existing alphabets militated in favour of the use of digital notation which was to facilitate the introduction of the ISSN for two reasons. One reason was related to the general circumstances: the ISSN closely resembled the ISBN which was widely used in the publishing trade. The other was simply a logical reason: digits represented a universal language;
computer processing:	as a standard code for numerical identification, the ISSN is well-suited for use in data processing, since it meets various needs connected with file updating, liaison, searches and data transmitted without any conversion programme.

All these qualities made the ISSN the single common denominator linking the different serials handling procedures of bibliographies, libraries, documentation centres, abstracting services, publishers and subscription agencies. Accordingly, it seemed quite natural to entrust the administration of the ISSN to the International Serials Data System currently being established.

(b) The ISDS rules

The "Journal of Library Automation" can at present be represented in three different ways:

(1) J. Libr. Automat. or a uniformly abbreviated title;

(2) JLAU - AY (CODEN);

(3) ISSN 0022-2240.

These three forms are successfully combined in the ISDS, since it distributes the ISSN, controls the title word abbreviations and provides a field for the CODEN and any other symbols used. However, experience has also shown that the practice of merely coding serial publications without gathering a minimum of information on each would lead to numerous complications of the kind soon recognized by those responsible for the CODEN:

which title should be abbreviated?

how should the origin of a publication be determined?

above all, how are title variations and other bibliographic changes to be dealt with effectively so as to ensure correct, prompt updating procedures?

lastly, what procedures should be adopted for handling publications in different languages, particularly publications printed in alphabets other than the Roman alphabet?

All the experts were deeply convinced that the ISSN would have only gone halfway in satisfying the requirements of the ISDS if it had not been inseparably associated with the actual serial publication under the strictest regulations.

In theory, the ISDS is not responsible for bibliographic description and is free to devote itself to research into the different identification methods. Has it been successful in establishing, for each serial publication, an invariable title and essential data elements without thereby encroaching upon the field of cataloguing, clashing with national traditions and refuelling old controversies?

In the hope of throwing some light on such questions, we propose to examine the ISDS rules, before embarking upon a thorough study of the cataloguing systems to which they are applied and which are the background against which the national bibliographies are built up.

Through the "Guidelines for ISDS",(1) the ISDS provides a series of original, apparently clear answers to the questions already raised by the operational procedures of the CODEN. In some instances, they may give rise to a certain confusion or even differences in interpretation from centre to centre, as we have already noted in connection with the definition of serial publications. It should, then, be emphasized that the ISDS in no way claims to rival the cataloguing codes, but merely offers serial cataloguers a path to explore: the collection of data elements which are essential to identification. It has its own initial list of such elements:(2)

ISSN;*

key-title; *

publication status (discontinued or currently published);

start date (year); *

end date (year);

country of publication (ISO code; country determined by publisher's address); *

frequency (one character code);

type of serial publication (periodical, newspaper, collection (one-character code));

alphabet of original title (coded); *

language of publication (coded)

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(1) Published by UNISIST under the Unesco imprint in May 1973, p.39 of the "Guidelines".

(2) An asterisk marks elements considered essential for input in every case.

CODEN;

Classification numbers (UDC or Dewey; the Library of Congress class number may be used if the first two are both unavailable);

abbreviated title (if any); *

variant titles; *

Imprint; *

former title(s))
successor title(s))
other language edition of ...)
inset in or supplement to ...)
has inset or supplement ...)
related titles)
coverage by abstracting services)

Indicated by the ISSN or, otherwise, by the publication title

All this information, considered to be either essential or useful to the ISDS, may be recorded without any bibliographical refinements for use in search procedures. The ISDS is thus trying to work out a sensible approach to the question and provides a very rare example of manual procedures being rethought in the light of data processing. It introduces two new aspects into the way serials are handled:

the ISSN;

the key-title.

The ISSN, whose background and modes we have just reviewed, is closely linked to the key-title and changes when there is any change in the key-title. Primarily, however, going beyond the altogether classic interdependence of code and object, the ISSN clearly identifies a particular title at a given moment and not a publication, which may have appeared under a number of titles. In this sense, it settles the old debate as to whether a publication should be catalogued by its oldest title, its most recent title or by successive titles.

However, observers have shown more interest in the key-title than in the ISSN itself. It represented an approach to the problematic border area between bibliographic identification, which may require some slight and at times artificial alterations of certain particulars, and bibliographic description which has to provide an accurate picture of the publications concerned and show some flexibility in adapting records to such publications. As general cataloguing procedures do not involve the formulation of "unique titles", it was necessary to set out simple guidelines for the establishment of such titles. This is how the "key-title" came into being.

The key-title is derived from the title information appearing on the publication.(1) It is entered in the original language, transliterated if necessary. The subtitle is not part of the key-title.

The key-title should be distinctive, i.e. not composed solely of less than five generic words.(2)

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(1) The title page, if available, is the primary source of information.

(2) According to the "Guidelines for ISDS", a generic word is one which indicates the kind and/or frequency of the publication, such as Abhandlungen, Annales, Berichte, Cahiers, Compte-rendu, Yearbook, etc.

When the title is in itself distinctive, it serves as the key-title.

Example: Association des diplômés universitaires
scientifiques, juridiques et économiques.

N.B.: as the name of the issuing body is the title of the publication, it serves as the key-title.

Journal of Library Automation.

ALA Bulletin.

N.B.: a distinctive title may consist simply of an acronym. The ISDS record should include the acronym and its expanded form.

If the generic word is grammatically inseparable from the name of the issuing body, it forms part of the key-title.

Example: Journal of the American Society,
Los Angeles Medical Society Bulletin

and also

ALA Bulletin,
I.E.E. Transactions.

If there is no grammatical link, the key-title begins with the generic title, followed by a dash (space dash space) and the name of the issuing body, regardless of the order on the title page.

Example: Annual Report - Board of Public Accountancy.

Lastly, if a significant title is identical to the title of another serial, it is distinguished by adding (in brackets) the place of publication and, if necessary, the type and/or starting date of publication.

Example: Recherches (Paris, 1952),
Recherches (Paris, 1953),
Recherches (Paris, 1961).

In addition to the title proper(1) with which it is often confused, the key-title established according to the "Guidelines for ISDS" may contain the following elements:

1.1 The name of the issuing body, exactly as it appears on the publication.

Example: Transactions - American Society for Metals.

1.2 A section statement, if it specifies the content.

Example: Journal of Polymer Science, Part A., General Paper.

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(1) This is the main title of a serial and does not include any subtitle. However, in the case of a section or supplement, the main title consists of two parts: the common title + the section or supplement title.

1.3 An edition statement, providing it appears on the publication.

Example: Nouvelles de Paris, English version.

2. The place of publication of the first issue.

Example: Medicina (Madrid).

3. The start date of the publication.

Example: Contact (Toronto, 1977).

4. The section or edition subtitle, providing they do not fall into the categories covered by 1.2 and 1.3.

Example: Réalités (Paris, English version),
New York Times (microform edition).

Anyone unfamiliar with this system may find it confusing and in some cases unnecessarily complicated. Why, it may be asked, should an identification system involve requirements such as strict adherence to the title page, which pertain to bibliographic description? And if it is decided to "make up" the key-title, why should this task be subject to constraints inherited from the field of cataloguing? Why, finally, should a subtle distinction be drawn between section statements and edition statements? This apparent inconsistency arises as much from the very spirit of the ISDS as from the heterogeneous nature of serials. While it is certainly necessary to construct a standard title, such a title must be easily deduced from the publication by ISDS/NC personnel, regardless of whether they are experienced cataloguers, and should be understandable and representative for all types of users. Consequently, it is not surprising that certain aspects of the final result are somewhat inconsistent, although the underlying logic of the key-title is not undermined.

In conclusion, we would note that the key-title is formed from two components:

(1) the "title proper" or a substitute title which is made significant by adding the name of the issuing body to a generic word;

(2) in the case of two distinctive titles being identical, additional means of identification are used: place, date, etc.

The "Guidelines for ISDS" then go on to deal with the corner-stone of the ISDS by setting out(1) explicit criteria for changing a key-title and assigning a new ISSN.

Any change in one or more words or characters in a word, or the addition or deletion of any word constitute a valid title change, if they involve:

(1) Different or deleted or additional nouns, names or adjectives.

Example: Library Science Abstracts and Library
and Information Science Abstracts.

(2) The word order.

Example: Journal of the Television Society, Television Society Journal.

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(1) "Guidelines for ISDS", pp. 32-35.

(3) The name of an issuing body which is part of the key-title.

Example: Bulletin - Musée Commémoratif Victoria, and
Bulletin - Musée National du Canada, or
UCLA Law Review and University of California
Los Angeles Law Review.

(4) The spelling of existing words (initial letter) or any change in an acronym.

Example: Sociaal Kompas and Social Compas.

On the other hand, it is not necessary to change the key-title and ISSN if any of the following changes occur:

(1) different, additional or deleted articles, prepositions or conjunctions, or a different order thereof;

(2) minor changes in the name of the issuing body which is part of the key-title, particularly if the acronym used by the body is not affected by the change;

(3) substitution of conjunction with a plus sign (+) or an ampersand (&);

(4) the addition of words, previously added to the key-title to make it distinctive;

(5) changes in spelling other than in first letters which do not affect the meaning of the words.

At first sight, these rules seem to be clearly framed on sound principles. However, we also have to consider how they are received by ISDS members and bodies outside the system and whether they serve their purpose, namely, tc ensure the correct identification of serial publications.

(c) Views of the national centres on the ISDS rules

The ISDS rules are dealt with extensively by the national centres in their replies to the questionnaire. They all make a point of stressing that they apply with "Guidelines" strictly. Only a handful of centres mention major hurdles. Denmark notes that care must be taken not to "cheat" with the rules and that, even though specific details of the rules may be questioned, the centres will bring about their own undoing if they fail to observe them scrupulously.

To be sure, various stumbling blocks are encountered here and there. Canada, for example, follows the Library of Congress code for country designation and not the INIS nomenclature adopted by the international centre. For transliteration, the ISDS chose the ISO standards and follows national custom where the former are inadequate. What procedure is to be followed when the ISO choice is at variance with the custom of the country concerned?(1) Both Japan on the one hand, and Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand on the other, explain how strange romanization seems in their linguistic areas and make similar comments about abbreviations and punctuation. In the same way, certain data elements are virtually unobtainable (start date, frequency) in these countries. This problem is experienced as much by the African and Latin American national centres as by the Asian centres, since in these parts of the world publishing is often a touch-and-go business and lacking in organization.

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(1) This is the case of Israel.

Lastly, we should note that some national centres find that the establishment of the key-title is turned into a hit-or-miss procedure by the notion of the "generic word" which some consider too loose or too narrow and, in a few cases, unnecessary. And this is not for want of having examined the question. Guided by experience, the ISDS network has enriched the original definition given in the "Guidelines". However, it has done so primarily through negative suggestions, which only goes to prove the complexity of the subject:

a "generic word" indicates the type and/or frequency of a publication.

Example: Annual Conference Proceedings,
Annual Reports,
Budget in Brief.

All these titles are generic. The NSDP has compiled a list of "generic words" which includes words such as: bulletin, circular, journal, membership directory, occasional newsletter, official report, preliminary report, proceedings of the conference, programme, research paper, review, special report, transaction.

On the other hand, titles which contain or are composed of words specifying content or subject are not generic.

Example: Anthropological Report
Seismological Bulletin
Astronomy
Geological Surveys
Behavioural Science Studies
Chemical Bulletin
Clinical Science
Medical Series Bulletin, etc.

Titles including terms which do not refer to either the frequency or the type of publication are not generic.

Example: Average Monthly Weather Outlook
External Trade Statistics
Employment Statistics
Staff Paper Series, etc.

Titles containing initials are distinctive.

Example: BEA Staff Paper
BIS Report
Bulletin GT

In general, titles of more than five words are not generic.

However, if there is any doubt, a title is considered to be generic.

The last point conceals a particular ambiguity which accounts for the growing distrust felt by a number of national centres towards a concept that is open to such a wide range of interpretations. The Swedish centre, however, finds the NSDP Guide on generic words(1) a useful tool.

The Japanese centre maintains that the only way to solve the question effectively is to tackle it by linguistic areas. The German centre (Federal Republic of Germany) objects that it would be illusory to compile lists of "generic terms" which would never be complete. However, the idea introduced by the NSDP and taken up by the Canadian centre, has proved to be quite radical. These two centres would like to see the ISDS give up "generic words", not merely because of the pitfalls surrounding their use, but primarily because they would be detrimental to the system in so far as they do not produce a unique title form. How, they ask, can the use of the "key-title" be accepted as an effective approach, if such vague title-names as "Scientific Report", "Technical Report", "Geological Report" or even "Contact" can only be distinguished by the place of publication and the start date, which are often unknown to the public? In support of this argument, the Canadian centre refers precisely to two journals entitled "Contact", which have both been published in Toronto since 1977. The extent of the validity of this criticism may only be gauged by making a rough estimate of the number of similar titles for which the present ISDS rules are inadequate. Even if the validity of the criticism were minimal, the question would none the less merit an answer in theoretical terms, since the ISDS was supposed to have established all the elements needed for identification. Be that as it may, the Canadian national centre suggests new rules for the establishment of the key-title:

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(1) Referred to above.

if the title proper is not unique, a statement of the issuing body is added to it. This does away with the different ways of handling "generic titles" and identical titles;

if it is not possible to state the name of the issuing body, the place of publication and the start date are to be added.

Accordingly, the key-title would either be composed of the title proper alone if it is significant, or the title proper followed by a statement (in brackets) of the issuing body or, if this element is unavailable, the place of publication and the start date.

Example: Journal (English, place, name, society).

Punctuation (space dash space) is discontinued and replaced by brackets.

However, such an approach would initially seem to run the risk of multiplying the number of changes in the key-title and hence in the ISSN. The Canadian national centre counters this argument by noting that all that is needed is an agreement to standardize the statement of the names of issuing bodies. Furthermore, work along these lines has already been undertaken by IFLA. It also points out that the place of publication is not always printed on the publication and, in particular, that it frequently changes. The start date is all too often uncertain.

For all that, the international standardization of statements of issuing bodies has still not been introduced. Is it not therefore dangerous to anticipate it, bearing in mind that responsibility for serial publications is often dispersed and impermanent?

In point of fact, it has to be decided whether the type of publication or its content is the most important data element:

if the type of publication is more important, the name of the issuing body is of merely secondary importance;

if the content of the publication is more important, the name of the issuing body, if it is available, should never be withheld.

The "Guidelines for ISDS" clearly attach more importance to the type of publication. The name of the issuing body is not considered necessary as a separate data element in the "Guidelines". It may form part of the key-title if grammatically inseparable from the title proper or if a generic title is involved, as already described. Nevertheless, ISDS practice has been relaxed to some degree. In May 1977, the Moscow Meeting of Centre Directors set out the prescribed order for title information:

(1) place;

(2) date;

(3) issuing body;

(4) other particulars.

Furthermore, the name of the issuing body is registered(1) in field 550: if there is no appropriate international agreement, it is entered in the form chosen by the national centres and variants will only be given if they appear on the publication.

This approach meant that ISDS policy did not really depart from the 1973 "Guidelines".

Although, at the Meeting of Centre Directors in Ottawa, the United Kingdom national centre joined forces with the American and Canadian national centres to broaden the concept of a "generic term", the suggestion that the name of the issuing body should be added to titles such as "Geophysical Paper" was not adopted. Thus, for the ISDS, the name of the issuing body is no more than a complementary descriptive element.

In the last analysis, the very point of all these discussions may be questioned. The ISDS is by no means claimed to be a complete bibliographic system and the ISSN is adequate for identifying a publication. On this basis, a literal citation should not be necessary, whatever the form. Surely the main advantage of the ISDS lies in the universality of the ISSN rather than in the value of the key-title which could serve merely as a means of controlling the ISSN assignment within the network? While this may be so, almost all the ISDS centres and bibliographic agencies are concerned that the "key-title" should be compatible with national catalogue titles. On this point, the attitude of the English-speaking ISDS centres is worthy of note. Their views were prompted not simply by their concern for greater internal consistency in the network but by the need to conform to the international standards and other bibliographic projects in which they may be involved. Up to now, and again at the Ottawa meeting, the specific character of the ISDS has been the overriding consideration. However, it is planned to bring out a revised edition of the "Guidelines for ISDS" in 1979. An effort should be made to draw upon and publish the experience gained in this field and the day-to-day observations entered in the "Decision Manual" which represents a veritable "treatise" on the application of the "Guidelines".

All the centres have been eagerly awaiting this new edition. They consider it indispensable since, in addition to having the authority of a "final judgement", it will remove any ambiguities and will lighten their work. It will give bodies outside the ISDS a better idea of the way the system has developed. No major change seems to have occurred. However, the small, day-to-day adaptations may well take on a new meaning.

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(1) Unless it appears in the same form in the key-title; field 550 then remains empty.

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4.1.2 Serial cataloguing rules followed by the national bibliographies and their compatibility with the ISDS

Most of the ISDS/NCs call attention to the difficulties involved in co-operating with the national bibliographic services. They note that such difficulties stem from the incompatibility between the ISDS rules and the cataloguing codes. Many of them deplore this state of affairs. Some find the situation normal, since there are major differences in the objectives of the two systems, namely identification and description. What, it may be asked, is the reason for what in some cases amounts to a flagrant(1) lack of co-operation? Are the "Guidelines for ISDS" totally out of step with cataloguing requirements? Surely the organization of data with a view to identification runs counter to the basic tenets of bibliographic description, which involves the accurate transcription of the elements of the publication? If the structure of the record and its content were to vary from country to country, would the cost of conversion and adaptation be prohibitive? While there is no shortage of questions, answers are less forthcoming. A number of comparative tables have therefore been included so as to give a better idea of the progress so far made in standardizing cataloguing practices,(2) from the standpoint of the national bibliography, in all countries connected with the ISDS for which such information is available.

(a) The survey findings

At present, ISDS centres are in operation or planned in 46 States. However, only 31 national centres and/or bibliographic agencies replied to the questions on cataloguing. It has been possible to establish that a number of different sets of rules are used for handling serials:

(1) national rules: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Poland, Sweden, USSR;

(2) R.A.K.: German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Austria;

(3) AACR: Brazil, Canada, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States;

(4) ISBD(S): Australia, Colombia, Finland, France, Hungary, Nigeria, Tunisia and countries associated with the Thailand Regional Centre for ISDS: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.

On the strength of complementary information drawn from a variety of sources, the following countries may be added to the above lists:

national rules: Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Spain, Yugoslavia;

AACR: Argentina, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Norway, Uruguay;

ISBD(S): Belgium and the Netherlands.

The survey centred on four main points:

the degree of co-operation between bibliographic agencies and the ISDS centres;

assessment of the compatibility between the ISDS rules and the cataloguing codes;

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(1) cf. Chapters 2 and 3.

(2) cf. Tables 1, 2 and 3 annexed to this chapter.

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adoption of the ISBD(S);

compatibility of the ISBD(S) and the ISDS.

However, in terms of giving a better picture of the overall bibliographic situation, it was more significant to divide the collected data[1] into three groups on the basis of the rules followed:

Group 1: national rules and rules comparable to national rules (RAK);

Group 2: AACR;

Group 3: ISBD(S).

Group 1: national rules

Out of 11 countries, two (Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia) did not express any views on these questions.

In eight countries, there is no real co-operation between the national bibliographic agency and the ISDS national centre.

In four countries, there is almost total separation (German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the USSR).

In the other four countries, there is comparative separation: in so far as any co-operation exists, it is to the benefit of the ISDS national centre which uses data assembled by the national bibliographic agency (Denmark, Japan, Poland, Sweden).

Austria favours co-operation; however, this is a theoretical position, since the national centre is not yet operational.

Compatibility between national cataloguing rules and the ISDS:

yes = German Democratic Republic, Denmark;

no = Italy, USSR.

Relative compatibility: Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Poland, Sweden.

Theoretical judgement on ISDS-ISBD(S) compatibility:

yes = Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Japan;

no = Federal Republic of Germany.

Relative compatibility: Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia.

Group 2: countries following the AACR

Eight countries apply the ACCR: apart from Ireland, they all replied to this part of the questionnaire.

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(1) This refers to the 31 countries which answered the questionnaires.

Co-operation between the national bibliographic agency and the ISDS national centre:

yes = Canada, New Zealand, United States;

no = Brazil, India, Israel.

Relative co-operation: United Kingdom.

AACR/ISDS compatibility:

yes = United States;

no = Canada, India.

Relative compatibility: Brazil, Israel, New Zealand, United Kingdom.

Theoretical judgement on ISDS/ISBD(S) compatibility:

yes = Brazil, United States;

no = Canada;

no reply: India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, United Kingdom (which does not consider the question to be relevant).

Group 3: countries which opted for the ISBD(S)

Twelve countries apply the ISBD(S).

Co-operation between the national bibliographic agency and the ISDS national centres:

yes = Australia, Finland, France, Hungary, Singapore, Tunisia;

no = Indonesia, Nigeria.

Relative co-operation: Malaysia, Thailand.

No reply: Colombia, Philippines.

ISDS/ISBD(S) compatibility:

yes = Australia, France, Hungary, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, Thailand;

no = Colombia, Tunisia;

no reply: Finland, Indonesia, Philippines.

What inferences are to be drawn from this statistical summary?

In the first place, it would seem that co-operation between the ISDS centres and the national bibliographic services is more successful, bearing in mind administrative situations, in countries where the ISBD(S) is followed; compatibility between the ISDS and national rules, regardless of whether or not they are related to the AACR, is considered poor, if we are to go by the assessments of the countries concerned. This applies to 3 out of 15 national bibliographies (20 per cent)

(German Democratic Republic, Denmark, United States).(1) Eight out of 15 (53 per cent) take the view that viable links exist between the national codes and the ISDS.

With respect to the AACR, Brazil, Israel, New Zealand and the United Kingdom share this opinion.

The same may be said of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Poland and Sweden, with respect to their own rules.

Nevertheless, the principle of compatibility with the ISDS has by no means been implemented in the case of 4 bibliographies out of 15 (26 per cent): Canada, India, Italy and the USSR. Lastly, in regard to relations between the ISBD(S) and the ISDS, the various evaluations are more encouraging since, out of nine bibliographic services using the ISBD(S), only two (Colombia and Tunisia) take the view that reconciliation with the ISDS is totally impracticable.

In the case of those countries which have not yet adopted the ISBD(S), the same trend prevails with two adverse opinions against seven favourable opinions. However, far less importance is attached to the question of possible discrepancies in relation to the ISDS. This accounts for the high percentage of "no replies" (10 out of 19).

In actual fact, a quite different set of prospects has opened up to the ISBD(S) as a result of its widely announced incorporation into the descriptive part of the best-known sets of cataloguing rules such as the Soviet rules (GOST), the German RAK(2) and, naturally, the Anglo-American AACR.(3)

(b) Application of the cataloguing rules by the national bibliographic agencies and their compatibility with the ISDS

Our concern is not to provide a detailed description of each code; it is merely to clarify the replies by trying to summarize the reasons for any inconsistencies or any correspondence between national traditions and the ISDS.

Surely the serious setbacks in this field arise primarily from the frequent confusion of identification factors and bibliographic factors? Bibliographic elements, such as the place or date, thus distinguish identical titles. Moreover, the formulation of structured data would seem to run counter to the very object of bibliographic description, namely to represent the serial as accurately as possible. This is why the practice of deriving the key-title from the record prepared by the national bibliographic agency or the attempt to relate them sometimes seems an almost impossible task, if some of the replies are to be believed. To establish whether this assessment is justified, we shall simply compare the "Guidelines for ISDS" successively with each of the most widely used codes covering serial publications. This comparison will bear upon three particular aspects:

the registration of the title and the name of the issuing body;

the choice of the heading (or access point);

changes of title.

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(1) The United States is the only country to conclude in favour of AACR and ISDS compatibility.

(2) RAK: Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung.

(3) AACR: Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules.

A preliminary observation is called for here. The relative scepticism expressed about the comparability of cataloguing rules and the "Guidelines for ISDS" stems primarily from a combination of circumstances. Many ISDS national centres have, in fact, only just been established and the need for co-operation with the national bibliographic agencies is not really felt by either of the parties. More importantly, however, the survey was conducted at a turning-point when most of the codes were being revised precisely with a view to the incorporation of the ISBD, while the national bibliographic agencies were still following earlier practices. Furthermore, many of the replies refer to a situation which may not be actually obsolete, but is at least in the process of disappearing. However, this fact does not detract from the intrinsic value of the ideas exchanged.

Moreover, the beginnings of the ISBD(S) were marked by inconsistencies and at one time it may have seemed to be going in two directions. As it was divided between its function as a cataloguing system and its affinities with the ISDS, its credibility was inevitably affected by the way it developed, which was practically unpredictable until the publication of the standard version in 1977. Accordingly, a number of countries have maintained that the adoption of the ISBD(S) as a national cataloguing system did very little to improve relations with the ISDS. Even though this is a minority position, it has had repercussions wherever there is a specific cataloguing tradition, particularly in the countries where the AACR are applied.

AACR (1967) and ISDS

From the very outset, there has been a marked conflict between the AACR (1967) and the ISDS. It has to do with the way of handling the name of the corporate body responsible for the serial publication. In most cases, the AACR take the name of the corporate body as the heading (or access point) and so make it the main identifying element. By contrast, it is disregarded by the ISDS,(1) except when added to the title proper if the latter consists merely of generic words.

To all intents and purposes, the AACR were inspired by the "Paris Principles"(2) which recommend that the "main entry" should be based on the name of the issuing body, providing it is associated with a generic title and the serial contains reports on activities. In all other cases, the serial is catalogued according to the title. The AACR, particularly in the North American version, reflect the broadest of interpretations of the "Paris Principles" and so make a rule of the exception. They lay down that the inclusion of the name of a corporate body in a title is too important a criterion to be neglected, even if there is no other evidence of responsibility. It is quite conceivable that the AACR editors wished to avoid problems arising from the use of generic terms. They are unwilling to engage in a pointless search for an ever-unreliable definition for such extreme cases as:

scientific studies;

education series;

travaux scientifiques, etc.

What is more, practising librarians need no telling how many pitfalls await the inexperienced in searches for titles beginning with:

Journal of ...;

Revue de la Société, etc.

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(1) cf. Part A above, pp. 108-109.

(2) International Conference on Cataloguing Principles, October 1961.

Surely the major factor in finding a good title is knowing the name of the issuing body? It is therefore considered superfluous to enter the publication under the title. On the other hand, if the name of the issuing body is used as the heading, the generic term ceases to be ambiguous.

However, such differences are really of a formal kind. All things considered, it matters little that the AACR favour the inclusion of the name of the corporate body responsible for the publication and the ISDS encourages its followers to adopt the key-title as the uniform entry. Is it not enough to provide for the incorporation of the key-title and the ISSN in the AACR or any other national standard? Unfortunately, it is not. The differences also affect title changes. In the ISDS a new ISSN is assigned only for a major title change. Under the AACR, a new record has to be made wherever any kind of change to the title and/or name of the issuing body produces a major alteration in the sequence.

In this context, an attempt to bring the AACR (1967) and ISDS into line would increase the problem involved in relating:

one single AACR record and several key-titles and ISSN;

Example:(1) Journal of Television Society
which becomes
Television Society Journal

would have a single entry according to the AACR:

TELEVISION SOCIETY
Journal

but two key-titles and two ISSN according to the ISDS:

(1) Journal of the Television Society;

(2) Television Society Journal;

one single key-title and ISSN and several AACR records;

Example: how to establish a univocal and indisputable link between the ISDS key-title "Women's and Children Clothing Industries" and the two successive AACR entries?

(1) CANADA: Statistics Canada. Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division. Women's and Children Clothing Industries.

(2) CANADA: Bureau of Statistics. Manufacturing and Primary Industries. Women's and Children Clothing Industries.

These examples make it easier to understand the guarded approach towards each other adopted by the ISDS national centres and the national bibliographic agencies using the AACR. Both are often content with informal communications.

A certain pragmatism may dictate a comparative degree of co-operation(2) in their work: a search successfully completed by an NBA is not restarted by the ISDS and vice-versa. With a view to achieving economies in means and logic design Canada tried to introduce a more rigorous division of the functions of the NBA and the ISDS national centre. It then decided to give up this approach as long as the common points in the AACR and the ISDS were so unreliable. Quite naturally, the revision of the AACR, motivated by the need to eliminate a number of internal inconsistencies concerning serials (such as the existence of different North American and United Kingdom versions, an almost cryptic approach to the cataloguing rules and too broad a conception of the issuing body or author) received a powerful impetus as the ISDS and the ISBD(S) launched their bibliographic plans for the eighties.

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(1) "Guidelines for ISDS", op. cit., p. 33.
(2) cf. Chapter 3.

The American and Canadian authorities,(1) convinced of the urgent need for their countries to become involved in these international efforts as early as possible, considered taking various measures of conservation until 1980/1981 (the date chosen for the introduction of the AACR II) aimed at offsetting the more glaring inconsistencies between the AACR and the ISDS. These measures of conservation involved:

the adoption of the principle that there should be one record for each consecutive title;

the insertion of references to the key-title and the ISSN in the AACR I;

the statement of authorship should be added to a title composed solely of a generic term.

We would note, finally, that one of the more positive suggestions for renewing the AACR was that all ISBD should be incorporated into the future code.

ISBD(S) and ISDS

The automated exchange of bibliographic data on an international scale cannot reasonably be conducted without a prior understanding on the presentation of information in terms of its form and content. This overriding consideration has meant that various specific national features have had to be eliminated in the attempt to achieve the standardization of cataloguing practices, and the models provided in the International Standard Bibliographic Description, the broad principles of which were published in 1974, have been accepted. The ISBD was the definitive standard for monographs and contained various recommendations concerning serial publications.

Two patent facts were noted:

the national codes all laid down regulations concerning serial publications, the similarities of which were far from evident!;

the ISDS system risked standardizing only the identification procedures, which could not easily be used by the national cataloguing systems.

In view of these factors, there was a move towards the inclusion within a single standard of the specific characteristics of the serial publication which were not covered by the ISBD(M). The preliminary notes of the ISBD(S) 1974 are careful to underline that questions linked to the choice of the heading and its use (main entry or secondary entry) are not dealt with in the ISBD(S). They are implicitly left for the national cataloguing systems to decide. Such an approach rules out any problems in this area between the ISDS and the ISBD(S). What is more, the 1974 provisions reflect a real desire to establish a closer link with the ISDS by introducing an ISSN area and particularly through the concept of the "distinctive title" which is defined as "the main title identifying a serial to the exclusion of any parallel title, subtitle or other title". It appears to be a "constructed" title, closely modelled on the key-title with which it is structurally identical apart from the elements intended to make the key-title unique. The only difference in relation to the ISDS is that the distinctive title is always followed in Area 1 by the statement of the issuing body or author when this is available.

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(1) The differences between the United Kingdom version of the AACR and the ISDS are slighter.

Example: Area 1 of the ISBD(S) record

La sidérurgie française en .../ Chambre syndicale de la sidérurgie française.

ISDS key-title

La sidérurgie française en ...

For all that, the laws of bibliographic description are safeguarded. The "title and statement of authorship" are transcribed as they appear on the title page or on a page substituting it, except when the title consists merely of a generic term and the name of a corporate body without there being any linguistic link between the two. The generic word precedes the statement of the name of the body responsible for the publication, which is faithfully reproduced in the order in which it appears on the publication.

Example: Bulletin des nouvelles - Association des bibliothécaires du Québec.

Apart from the way identical titles are handled compatibility is almost total between ISBD(S) 1974 and the ISDS. The only point is that the strong resemblance between the "distinctive title" and the "key-title" necessitates, if not the fusion of the two, at least a high degree of harmonization in the way serials are handled by the NBA and the ISDS national centres. While all countries following the ISBD(S) and possessing an ISDS national centre in theory aspire to such close co-operation, they were not all equally prepared for it in psychological or administrative terms, as we have noted. How can there be any certainty that a cataloguer working on the national bibliography will choose the same solution as the ISDS national centre in every case? Is there an infallible procedure for ensuring that the key-title and distinctive title correspond in all respects? Why may "Television Society Journal" be chosen as against "Journal - Television Society"?

After reference to the linguistic meaning, must it be concluded that "Television Society" forms part of the title or that the title proper is merely the generic term "Journal"? There is no point in adopting the typological lay-out as a criterion. This is an extremely unreliable method since the slightest change on the title page is apt to spawn a host of interpretations. In any case, this is a fairly general kind of discrepancy. Here is a striking example of it:

Example: ISDS(S) Record: Field One

Historical, Statistical and Financial Report/Montgomery County Md Office of the County Accountant.

ISSN and key-title

ISSN 0085-330X = Montgomery County Maryland Historical, Financial and Statistical Report.

If the place allocated on the title page for the title "Montgomery County" were altered, a new ISSN and key-title would be assigned, but the record would not be changed. This is indicative of a significant ISDS trend to read the title proper as if it included the statement of authorship whereas the NBA, cataloguing according to the ISBD(S), generally distinguishes two elements: the title proper and the issuing body. Was such a difficulty to be solved by a new version of the ISBD(S)?

In point of fact, although the 1974 recommendations enjoyed an exceptionally widespread dissemination,(1) some members of the library-science community began to regret that ISBD(M) and ISBD(S) had developed independently. The chief objection to ISBD(S) 1974 was that it mixed identification and description. Indeed, the main desire was to observe the ISBD(G) common scheme established in Paris in autumn 1975 with a view to applying uniform handling procedures for all types of documents incorporated in the "multi-media" catalogues without neglecting compatibility with the ISDS.

These two requirements were not easy to reconcile. Hence, after an attempt to lay down specific rules for serials and to standardize titles on the basis of a constructed title, this approach was rejected and the principle of reproducing the information on the title page was reintroduced.

The solution involved replacing the "distinctive title" in Area 1 with the "title proper" and placing the key-title in the ISSN area.

The revised ISBD(S)(2) dates from 1977. It provides cataloguers with a more comprehensive record than the earlier version.

ISBD(S) 1974

(6 areas)

1. Title and statement of authorship area
    - 1.1 Distinctive title
    - 1.2 Parallel titles, subtitles and other titles
    - 1.3 Statement of authorship
2. Imprint area
    - 2.1 Place of publication
    - 2.2 Name of publisher
    - 2.3 Dates and numbering
    - 2.4 Place of printing and
    - 2.5 Name of printer (optional)
3. Collation area
    - 3.1 Illustration statement (optional)
    - 3.2 Size
    - 3.3 Accompanying material
4. Series area
5. Notes area

ISBD(S) 1977

(8 areas)

1. Title and statement of responsibility area
    - 1.1 Title proper+
    - 1.2 General material description
    - 1.3 Parallel titles
    - 1.4 Other title information
    - 1.5 Statements of responsibility+
2. Edition area (constructed as Area 1)
3. Numbering area (numbers and/or dates of coverage of the first and last issues)
4. Publication and distribution area
    - 4.1) 4.2) (as 2.1 and 2.2 of 1974)
    - 4.3 Statement of function of distributor+
    - 4.4 Dates of publication+
    - 4.5) 4.6) (as 2.4 and 2.5 of 1974)
    - 4.7 Dates of printing+

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(1) Immediately adopted by Australia and France.

(2) ISBD(S) 1977 is only specific where it differs from the 1974 version. Any elements which are added or altered are marked with an asterisk (+).

ISBD(S) 1974	ISBD(S) 1977
6. International Standard Serial Number and price area (optional)	5. Physical description area
	6. Series area
	7. Note area
	8. International Standard Serial Number and terms of availability area 8.1 ISSN 8.2 Key-title+ 8.3 Price (optional)

There is less correspondence with the ISDS in the new version of ISBD(S). Although this development might have given some cause for concern, it has not really affected compatibility since there is quite a suitable interface in Area 8 between ISDS/NC inputs and NBA inputs.

The only awkward point is still title changes: in this connection, the problems found in the earlier version reoccur, stemming from the evaluative processes of two independent bodies. This fact undoubtedly points to the need for better coordination between the NBA and the ISDS/NC. At any event, the ISBD(S) explicitly advises that ISDS policy be followed in this respect.

In the standardization of the way serials are handled, two results of international dimensions have been achieved:

identification through the ISDS since 1972;

the definitive introduction of the standard description with ISBD(S) 1977.

As many countries became aware of these developments, they acknowledged the reality of the link between the ISDS and the ISBD(S). Although already members of the ISDS, they announced their intention of introducing the ISBD(S) into their cataloguing code and, consequently, into the records of the national bibliography.

This is also the trend in the CMEA countries. Similarly, the position in South-East Asia is comparable to that in all the Eastern countries: despite certain reservations, the conclusion is identical. In view of this we shall proceed to examine various projects concerning two codes in particular, in view of their scope. These codes are the RAK (the German cataloguing rules) and AACR II. Do they show any parallel development, and do they also confirm the survey findings?

AACR II, the revised RAK and the ISDS

The revised RAK are to be published in 1979; the AACR II are to come out at the end of 1978. Information currently circulating on these codes points to the fact that the ISBD(S) will be incorporated into the two codes but they reflect an extremely interesting paradoxical approach. The 1973/1974 RAK, which were more or less derived from the "Prussian Instructions", still rejected the idea of the issuing body as the heading. This idea will be accepted in the next version. At the same time, AACR II restrict the use of the name of a "corporate body" as the entry to administrative publications and certain types of government and legislative publications emanating from the thinking or activities of a corporate body.

The Germans regret this decision by the English-speaking countries if it means that in the future the AACR will not provide any formal criterion, such as the "generic term", for determining headings. The "Journal of the Institute of Metals" will be entered under that title and no longer under:

INSTITUTE OF METALS
journal

Experience has shown that the addition of the name of a corporate body to or its inclusion in the title proper could give rise to difficulties, particularly in connection with sequence arrangement. Furthermore, the use of a title which includes a generic title is not, in the opinion of the Germans, as natural as might be thought. It presents certain problems in inflected languages, particularly in the case of titles that include the names of hierarchic corporate bodies, of which the components vary in order.

Examples of the first type:	Zeitschrift der Vereins and Zeitschrift/Verein
	Trudy/Institut and Trudy Instituta
Examples of the second type:	Bulletin/Canada, Department of Agriculture and Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Canada

The Germans maintain that in such a case the use of the title proper or the generic term and the statement of authorship is unsatisfactory in the form prescribed in the ISBD(S). In their opinion, cataloguers will find themselves in the position of having to establish uniform headings with a set of references since, on the basis of the index of the ISDS Register, they do not think that the key-title could be used effectively.

Notwithstanding these serious observations, AACR II will be the first cataloguing code in which a complete ISBD structure is implemented. AACR II will be set out in two parts:

Part 1: General rules for description followed by chapters on monographs, microforms, serial publications, etc. based on the ISBD(G);

Part 2: Determination of the heading (or access point);

Geographic names;

Uniform titles;

Cross references.

Fundamentally, the notorious, much-discussed rule 6 is abolished: the establishment of headings for serial publications will no longer be covered by any special rules. Instead a single rule, "rule 1", will determine the entry forall types of publications. For the notion of the corporate author, it will provide a definition of publications emanating from a corporate body and will enable any other publication to be entered according to the title. Moreover, the first part of the AACR II is concerned with description, thereby showing that the paramount factor in cataloguing is not the arrangement of headings but the preparation of records. On the basis of these indications, it is generally estimated that 90 per cent of all serial publications will be entered according to the title proper as understood by the ISBD(S) and that they will be described according to the ISBD(S) rules.

It may therefore be inferred, not merely from the survey, but from the comparative study of national cataloguing practices and the ISDS, that relations between the ISDS national centres and the national bibliographic agencies will develop to their mutual advantage without any need for their functions to be combined. However, this will entail constant liaison and an effort to demarcate and structure title changes, for which the ISDS is, logically enough, responsible.

4.2 Automated data gathering by the NBA and the ISDS/NC

An understanding on the bibliographic content of the records produced by the national bibliographic agencies and the ISDS certainly affects international exchange, which is the key element in universal bibliographic control. However, the rapid development in the production of automated systems means that such an understanding is not the only factor involved. Information processing serves as an intermediary in this connection: it is also an integral aspect of the ISDS at IC level and, even though it is in no way compulsory for the national centres or national bibliographic agencies to use computer facilities, they are a fundamental factor in any future development trends. Consequently, there is a considerable demand for computer facilities since those responsible for the centres feel that failure to take advantage of such facilities will in no time condemn their countries to isolation and impair the quality of their services.

What stage has been reached by the various countries connected with the ISDS? Have they acquired the essential software? If so, what are their views on the compatibility between the ISDS formats and their respective national bibliographies?

(a) The survey findings

Views of the ISDS national centres

If the brevity of the replies is anything to go by, this question scarcely seems to trouble the vast majority of the operational ISDS national centres.

Only applicants for membership are anxious to find out whether they must have a computer at their disposal before they can join the ISDS. Nevertheless, an idea may be formed of the current (or future) computer facilities at the disposal of the ISDS national centres and the degree of compatibility which the centres wish to establish with the national bibliography in this field. Thirty-nine centres were operational in 1977/1978. To this part of the questionnaire, 22 replies were received representing the views of 28 countries.

Only four centres regularly send to the international centre their records on magnetic tape in the ISDS format:

three national centres = (Denmark since January 1978)
= NSDP (U.S.A.) (in its own format until the end of 1975; thereafter in the ISDS format)
= United Kingdom (since 1976)(1)

one regional centre = the regional centre for the CMEA countries.

With the Moscow regional centre, 11 countries (28 per cent) are thus forwarding such data to the international centre every month or every other month.

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(1) First tests.

However, four other centres (Australia, Canada, Sweden and the South-East Asia regional centre) have computer facilities at their disposal (for handling the serial publications of eight countries = 20 per cent, in the more or less immediate future).

Although they are actively studying the possibility of forwarding tapes, they cannot proceed any further with their plans for the time being, owing to:

installation difficulties, concerning personnel or the introduction of new technology (the South-East Asia regional centre);

a shortage of funds (Australia);

or extremely marked differences between the national formats and the ISDS (Canada, Sweden).

Four other centres (10 per cent of the countries belonging to the ISDS) are developing longer term projects:

in the Federal Republic of Germany the national centre has recognized the differences between the formats of the ISDS and the Deutsche Bibliographie. As it does not expect to receive a large enough budgetary allocation to cover the introduction of its own software, it prefers to subcontract this work to the international centre for the time being. It makes a financial contribution to the international centre in return for the service;

while France and Italy consider the question of formats settled, they are short of funds. The French centre will be automated at the same time as Supplement 1 of the Bibliographie de la France;

in Japan, the national centre faces the linguistic problems presented by the romanization needed for the input of Japanese publications into an international automated system.

We should also note that two CMEA countries (Hungary and Poland) expect their centres to be automated in the near future.

On the other hand, Brazil, Ireland, Nigeria, New Zealand and Tunisia (12 per cent of the national centres) do not contemplate any such developments for the time being.

Views of the national bibliographic agencies

Twenty-nine replies were received on the subject of the computerization of the national bibliography.

In Canada, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and Sweden, the national bibliography, including the serials section, has been automated. The United States should naturally be added to this group of countries, since all the American data are included on the MARC/S tapes distributed by the Library of Congress.

Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria and the Philippines have accepted the principle of automation. In some cases, fairly advanced studies have even been completed; it is funds that are lacking.(1) Israel refers to a union catalogue produced by computer techniques.

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(1) In Denmark, France and the USSR, for example, the "monographs" section of the bibliography has been automated, but not the section dealing with serials records.

Nine countries (1) consider that they will not be embarking upon this stage for a long time. However, all the countries belonging to an ISDS regional centre will shortly reap the benefits of their membership in the equivalent forms of machine-readable regional lists or union catalogues.

Compatibility between the national format and the ISDS according to the national bibliographic agencies and the ISDS national centres

Tables 1, 2 and 3 (2) show four types of reply:

(1) no compatibility: Canada, USSR;

(2) partial compatibility subject to a conversion programme: Federal Republic of Germany, United States of America, Hungary, United Kingdom;

(3) compatibility with another format (not ISDS):

with the ISO 2 702 structure: Sweden (LIBRIS);

with MARC(s): Italy (Anna project);

with UNIMARC: Japan (Japanese MARC/S);

(4) compatibility with the ISDS: Brazil (CALCO), Israel, German Democratic Republic, Thailand.

N.B.: a number of countries have stated that future formats for serials handling will be compatible with the ISDS. These countries are Australia (AUSMARC), Finland (FINMARC, derived from the British MARC), France (INTERMARC/S) and Malaysia (MALMARC). Similarly, the Nigerian and Philippine MARCs will be convertible to UNIMARC.

(b) Comments

The fact that 70 per cent of the national bibliographies referred to are either actually automated (25 per cent) or on the point of becoming automated (45 per cent) is hardly surprising, in view of the extraordinary technological advances in recent years. It seems no surprise that 28 per cent (3) of the ISDS national centres forward their records to the international centre on magnetic tape, if the above percentages are borne in mind. What is more, 30 per cent of the countries have stated their wish to adopt the same approach. Although this is merely indicative of a trend, it represents an altogether satisfactory situation for the ISDS since it means that the task of the international centre will be lightened and it will be possible to exploit all the possibilities of the system.

Despite these reasons for optimism, some concern is felt over the convertibility of the formats when a country such as Canada has been unsuccessfully trying, since 1973, to reconcile the ISDS and the format of its national bibliography. Yet the ISDS and the Canadian MARC/S are similarly structured and have the same origins. Admittedly, the Canadian National Library is pursuing an ambitious, albeit logical goal, namely the combination of the different elements in the handling chain. Furthermore, Canada has always maintained that the incompatibility of formats is due to the differences between the AACR and the ISDS which represent diametrically different approaches to cataloguing.

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(1) Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore and Tunisia.

(2) Annexes to this chapter.

(3) This percentage includes the national centres which are attached to the CMEA regional centre in Moscow.

Finally, we would note that the international centre has expressly stated its preference for correctly prepared manual records rather than tapes which still have to be corrected or transposed. Since 1976, it has only accepted records forwarded in the ISDS format. The two things explain each other.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom national centre has adopted a more pragmatic approach which has led to its becoming the first centre to forward tapes to the international centre on a regular basis. The ISDS national centre relies on information provided by the B.N.B. (British National Bibliography). However, the ISDS tapes and the MARC tapes are produced separately from different manual records by different personnel. The national centre admits that such an arrangement is uneconomic and even illogical, but it does have the positive advantage of not artificially linking processes which are in some cases inconsistent. Above all, it saves the national bibliography and the ISDS national centre burdening each other with their respective requirements. The USSR has adopted a similar line of approach. It is satisfied with the progress made and has stated that it has no intention of changing this approach.

The NSDP has painstakingly built up a LC/MARC(S) - ISDS conversion programme: this system has been expensive in terms of effort and has needed a number of adjustments. On the whole, however, it works and enables the NSDP to transfer from the MARC tapes to the ISDS.

This account of developments in this field gives the impression that there is no real link between the national formats and the ISDS. The obstacles, which is to be expected when an attempt is made to reconcile unrelated formats (ISDS and ASRPI, for example), is more surprising in the case of the MARC/S and the ISDS, as the specifications of the latter were discussed with the American MARC Office. In this connection, the composition of any input format should be borne in mind. It comprises:

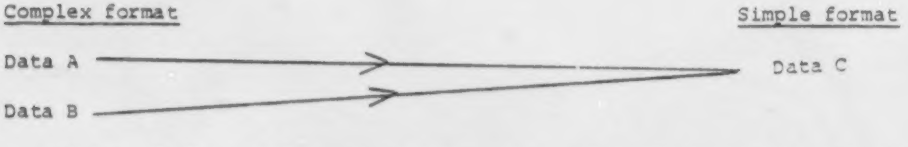
a structure physically representing the information in the machine;

a set of content designators serving to identify each element or introduce additional elements;

the actual content.

Only the basic structure has been regulated, since 1973, by an ISO standard. The form and content designators develop differently from country to country according to cataloguing practices. This factor primarily affects the linking area. It is why, in the process of multiplication, the MARC/S(1) have taken on various new features and gradually departed from the original model as the imprint of the AACR faded. Although such flexibility has been a major factor in the success of the MARC/S, it has called for burdensome, expensive conversion programmes on the part of the bibliographic agencies. Where the American MARC, for example, divides the title into three subfields, its German and French counterparts each establish a dozen subfields, although not the same! While it is easy to transfer from a complex to a simple format, the same cannot be said of the reverse operation.

A diagram suffices to show this:



N.B.: While A and B may converge in C, it cannot be known which elements of C are derived from A and which from B.

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(1) Fifteen have been recorded; others are in the process of being established.

Such a situation could cripple exchange procedures. The present formats resemble sealed letters, whose content has to be guessed from the design of the envelope and the address. The international library-science community therefore agreed to design a "multi-media" format to serve as a basis for interpreting national formats.

This initiative resulted in the formulation of UNIMARC (Universal MARC), which was published by IFLA early in 1977 with the aim of furthering communication between bibliographic agencies. UNIMARC consists of eight functional blocks arranged in the following order:

(1) identification;

(2) description (according to ISBD);

(3) intellectual responsibility;

(4) subject analysis;

(5) linking entry;

(6) related title;

(7) title;

(8) coded information.

Several references were made to UNIMARC in the part of the survey dealing with this question. It may therefore rightly be expected that the combined action of AACR II and UNIMARC will eliminate disparities between ISDS and the Canadian format, which has to be converted to UNIMARC before it can be accepted by the ISDS. The same should apply to all such cases, as long as the ISDS and the national formats have each established an appropriate procedure for transfer to UNIMARC.

TABLE 1

COMPATIBILITY OF THE ISDS WITH THE CATALOGUING RULES AND NATIONAL FORMATS IN COUNTRIES WHERE NEITHER THE AACR NOR THE ISBD(S) WERE FOLLOWED IN 1977-1978 IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Country	Cataloguing code used	Relations between the Bibliographic Agency and the ISDS/NC in connection with cataloguing	Co-operation in cataloguing procedures	Separate Cataloguing Procedures	Compatibility of the NBA and the ISDS Formats	OBSERVATIONS
AUSTRIA	- Until 1978, the "Prussian Instructions" - From 1979, the revised RAK editions.	Close co-operation anticipated	YES	NO	No reply	- These replies are theoretical, as the Austrian NC is not yet operational
BULGARIA	National rules	No reply	No reply	No reply	No automation	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	- National rules, 2nd edition, 1969	No reply	No reply	No reply	No automation	
DENMARK	National rules for serials	- Relationship confined to transmittal of ISDS data to the NBA	NO (1)	YES (2)	The serials section of the bibliography is not automated	(1) Except for the NC's use of the Bibliography as a source of reference. (2) Except for transmittal to the Bibliography of the ISSN and the key-title
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	R.A.K. (1)	No relationship; moreover, the bibliography is not specific enough for the needs of the ISDS/NC.	NO	YES (2)	These formats are considered compatible.	(1) The 1978 revised and corrected edition is compatible with the ISDS. (2) There are separate cataloguing procedures in view of the needs of the ASPRI

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF	R.A.K.	(1) Very little relationship until 1978 - only 50% of the ISSN assigned appear in the "Deutsche Bibliographie"	NO (1)	YES (1)	These formats are only partially compatible.	(1) Unfortunately, this situation involves double registration. It is hoped that the revised edition of the RAK will bring about an improvement. (2) Owing to a variety of cataloguing procedures.
ITALY	1956 national rules for periodicals	NONE	NO	YES	- The MARC(S) and ANNA (national bibliography) formats are compatible.	- Different standards are followed.
JAPAN	- Japanese rules for "serials" of the "National Diet Library"	- The ISDS/NC uses NBA catalogue data to some extent, but the opposite is not the case	YES (1) (to some extent)	NO (2)	- JAPAN MARC/S will be compatible with UNIMARC. In any event, there are conversion problems of a linguistic nature.	(1) Only in the NBA-ISDS direction as a source of reference for the NC. (2) Except for those cataloguing procedures of the NBA that make no reference to the ISDS/NC.
POLAND	- National rules until January	- The ISDS/NC uses the catalogue data of the NBA	YES (to some extent)	NO	No automation	- Although there is some communication, co-operation is exclusively to the benefit of the ISDS/NC. This situation should improve with the adoption of the ISBD(S).
SWEDEN	- National rules which greatly resemble the AACR. - However, for handling serials, the Swedish rules are based on the ISDS, and require the use of the key-title as the heading	- Incomplete relationship. - Transmittal of NBA catalogue data to the ISDS/NC. No ISDS/NC data is transmitted to the NBA	YES (to some extent)	NO	- LIBRIS II derived from MARC is compatible with ISO 2 709	- As in the case of Japan and Poland, the relationship is one-way.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS	- Currently national rules: "GOST", 1969 - From 1978 onwards "GOST 76" rules will be applied, incorporating ISBD(S) 1977 principles	- No real co-operation to speak of (1)	NO	YES	- The format currently used by the NBA is not compatible with the ISBD. No attempt is being made to make it compatible.	(1) However, the ISDS/NC uses a large volume of data gathered by the NBA

TABLE 2

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ISDS/NC AND THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES IN COUNTRIES WHICH FOLLOWED THE AACR (ANGLO-AMERICAN CATALOGUING RULES) IN 1977-1978, AND THE COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE ISDS AND THE AACR

Country	Version of the AACR used	Relations between the bibliographic agency and the ISDS/NC in connection with cataloguing	Co-operation in cataloguing procedures	Separate cataloguing procedures	Compatibility of the NBA and ISDS Formats	OBSERVATIONS
BRAZIL	ALA 1949 rules - However, the IBICT follows the ISDS rules for the union catalogue.	- None officially. - However, a copy of the ISDS manual record is sent to the NB for information purposes.	NO	YES	- The CALCO format (derived from MARC) is incompatible with ISDS.	
CANADA	- AACR 1967, North American version in English and French for the time being - AACR II will be introduced in 1981	- Maximum co-operation so as to avoid duplication of effort	YES (1)	NO	(2) No. The Canadiana format is at present incompatible with the ISDS.	(1) The ISDS/NC receives the processed catalogue data from the NBA and transmits it to CANADIANA and the MARC tapes. (2) Owing to the differences between the cataloguing practices in the AACR and in the ISDS.
INDIA	- AACR 1967 - AACR II will be introduced in 1980	- No co-operation	NO	YES	No automation as yet	
IRELAND	- AACR 1967 - AACR II will be introduced in 1980	No reply	No reply	No reply	No automation	

ISRAEL	- AACR 1967	- Limited co-operation	NO	YES	- The bibliography is not automated but the union catalogue is (American Union list of serials format, compatible with ISDS)	- The national bibliography does not use ISDS data, but the NC uses the records of the periodicals service of the NL.
NEW ZEALAND	- British version of AACR 1967; adapted (particularly with respect to the sequence of items on the record)	- Closest possible co-operation	YES (1)	NO (2)	No automation	(1) The ISDS/NC extracts the ISDS elements from records compiled by the NBA and transmits the ISSN. (2) Except for serials published prior to 1970 which are not handled by the bibliography.
UNITED KINGDOM	- British version of AACR 1967	- No overlap, but data is transmitted both ways	NO (1)	YES (2)	- The UK-MARC is to some extent compatible with the ISDS	(1) But the BNB is consulted in connection with the retrospective catalogue. (2) The NBA uses ISDS information.
UNITED STATES	- North American version of AACR 1967 currently in use. - AACR II will be introduced in 1981	- Maximum co-operation to avoid duplication of effort	YES (1)	NO	- MARC(S)-ISDS conversion programme necessary	(1) The first record is always used, whether produced by the Library of Congress, other NBs or the NSDP.

TABLE 3

COMPATIBILITY OF THE CATALOGUING RULES AND FORMATS - RELATIONS BETWEEN ISDS/NC AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES IN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ADOPTED THE ISBD(S)

COUNTRY	Date of adoption of ISBD(S) and version used	Relations between the bibliographic agency and the ISDS/NC in connection with cataloguing	Co-operation in cataloguing procedures	Separate cataloguing	Compatibility of NBA and ISDS formats	OBSERVATIONS
AUSTRALIA	- AACR - ISBD(S) from 1975	Close co-operation	YES	NO	AUSMARC, which is currently designed for monographs, will be compatible with the ISDS.	- The records from the NBA and the ISDS are produced at the same time. Accordingly, the NC works for both the ISDS International Centre and the NBA.
COLOMBIA	ISBD(S) 1974	No reply	No reply	No reply	No reply	
FINLAND	- National rules until 1976	- The NBA and NC jointly control the information received from publishers. - With automation, the different phases of the work will be combined	YES	NO	No automation at present. - FINMARC derived from the British MARC is currently being designed and will be compatible with the ISDS.	- The ISDS/NC uses data provided by the NBA.
FRANCE	- ISBD(S) 1974 in use until 1979 - ISBD(S) 1977 will be used from 1980 onwards	Close co-operation (two way) for current cataloguing	YES	NO	Automation planned using INTERMARC(S) which will be compatible with ISDS	
HUNGARY	The national bibliography uses the ISBD(S) 1977	Close co-operation in some areas: in the NBA ISDS/NC direction	YES (1) Common manual record prepared (except for earlier titles)	NO (2)	The NBA and ISDS format are compatible but have to be converted.	(1) However, the NBA uses the ISDS very little. (2) Insofar as co-operation is possible.

INDONESIA	Combined use of the national rules and AACR with subsequent introduction of ISBD(S) 1974	No co-operation at present	NO	YES	No automation	The NC is not yet really operational.
MALAYSIA	- AACR and - ISBD(S) 1977	The ISDS/NC cannot rely solely on the content of the national bibliography (1)	NO	YES	- Automation being planned in the form of a Malaysian MARC: MALMARC, compatible with ISDS.	(1) Accordingly, the cataloguing procedures are to some extent separate, but they are carried out by the same person. This is not a satisfactory arrangement.
NIGERIA	- AACR, North American version - subsequently, the ISBD(S) 1974 and ISBD(S) 1977.	- Occasional co-operation on actual cataloguing procedures	NO	YES	- No automation. - It will follow UNIMARC and will therefore be compatible with the ISDS.	The NC sometimes uses the bibliography, particularly in connection with classification; it transmits the ISSN to the bibliographic agency.
PHILIPPINES	- AACR, North American version - subsequently, ISBD(S) 1974	No reply	No reply	No reply	- Automation planned. It will be introduced with the help of India, and will be based on MARC II.	
SINGAPORE	- British version of the AACR and rules for Malaysian names - 1976 Provisional version of the ISBD(S)	- Close co-operation: the ISDS/NC in particular uses NBA data	YES	NO	- No automation.	
THAILAND	- AACR - 1977 version of ISBD(S)	- Comparative co-operation	YES	NO	- MARC format compatible with ISDS.	- The NBA uses ISDS input: ISSN and key-title.
TUNISIA	- National rules - Subsequently, ISBD(S) 1977	- Complete amalgamation into a single service	YES	NO	No automation.	

CHAPTER 5

OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL CENTRES AND THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AGENCIES AND THE ISDS NETWORK

5.1 Objectives of the national centres and the international centre

(a) Selection or complete control: ISDS and UBC

The legal-deposit system and the bibliography are, by definition, concerned with complete coverage. The legal-deposit system forms the basis of the archives of national writings and publications; the bibliography is responsible for providing a snapshot of national writings and publications at any given moment. However, both the legal-deposit system and the bibliography are affected by two forms of selection: one is the inevitable, natural selection, bound up with the weaknesses of the data-gathering network; the other is a planned system of selection, motivated by a concern for efficiency.

The ISDS was originally designed to identify scientific and technical titles. Having been extended to take in all serials, it had to face the same dilemma. In the hope of avoiding the system becoming overloaded its original aims were re-examined. These aims were:

(1) to number automatically all new titles published since 1971;

(2) to number current serials;

(3) to process related earlier titles.

Since 1972, complete coverage on an international scale has been considered an unsatisfactory approach since it is too costly for the international centre. Besides, is it really desirable? Should the future register be overloaded with elements of merely local or ephemeral interest? Accordingly, since then, an attempt has been made to outline a range of feasible solutions:

(1) a selection would be made by the international centre alone. However, this solution would rule out co-operation with national centres. It would also be contrary to the spirit of UBC, since international control can only be implemented effectively if it represents the sum total of national control systems without actually replacing them;

(2) the choice could be made by the national centres, but this would deprive the international centre of any means of bringing about harmonization;

(3) with the help of the national centres, the international centre would establish on a centralized basis:

a file for essential publications;

shortened-entry tapes for non-essential titles.

However, the prevailing trend was towards complete UBC. In the following year, it was recommended that particular attention be paid to title changes and new publications.

The question came up again in 1975, at the second meeting of ISDS centre directors when the United States announced the forthcoming dissemination of a list of selection criteria. However, it was the third national centre directors' meeting in 1976 that provided the first milestone in the development of ISDS policy in relation to UBC and defined its contours and philosophy, thus reflecting a concern widely shared among the members of the network.

For the international centre, the idea of complete control at any price is proving both difficult to attain as a goal and untenable as a position in view of the excessive number of publications of "local interest" and the unexpectedly heavy volume of retrospective numbering resulting from filiation. Furthermore, it would prevent a rational implementation of the system and involve an increase in cost and time, leading in the short term to the understandable dissatisfaction of potential users. The international centre is therefore putting forward the proposal that each national centre should agree to select titles according to their national or international importance.

This is a complex problem, for how can such an approach be reconciled with:

(1) UBC? A good number of national bibliographic agencies practise a more or less rigorous form of selection of serials to be included in their bibliographies. Surely, however, the specific role of the ISDS is to identify serials? Logically, therefore, it should register every single publication, even though it be of minimal interest;

(2) the needs of the national bibliography? The ISSN represents an excellent tool for the management of serials which are often recorded in a special section. It would be a pity to exclude this feature by restricting the scope of the ISSN;

(3) the evident need to control the exclusion and inclusion of publications so as to keep practices within acceptable bounds? Within this framework, who will have the authority to decide whether a publication is of "local interest"? The ISDS national centre? Is there not a fear that the application of internal rules will entail a departure from national bibliographic practices and so undermine the credibility of the ISDS? And if each national centre respects the choices made by the national bibliographic agency, how will it be possible to preserve the necessary degree of co-ordination between the national centres?

Such an intricate collection of questions calls for a thorough study of the problems involved. It would be easy to fall prey to the attractions of selection which are supported by arguments of a circumstantial nature (lack of time of financial difficulties) or by theoretical positions such as those embodied in two or three rather striking aphorisms along the following lines:

management means selection; preservation means exclusion;

publications of local or ephemeral interest are useless to the scientific community, which is the main client of the ISDS network.

In point of fact, the directors of the national centres, even if they referred to a combination of circumstantial factors, felt that the question in hand was a fundamental one. After considering the pros and cons, they stated in 1976(1) and confirmed in 1977(1) and fairly recently in Ottawa in 1978 the following broad lines of approach:

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(1) The meetings of the national centres held in London and Moscow.

above all. the national centres undertake to meet any request for ISSN for current serials, whether it comes from the international centre, another national centre, publishers or any other body, library or documentation centre. It is simply within their powers to arrange the assignment of numbers in the order of priority outlined in the "Guidelines";(1)

on the other hand, there is no question of a "blind" automatic registration of all current serials or new titles published since 1971 or recorded in their national bibliography.

With a view to facilitating the management of the International Register, they are even invited:

(1) to forward to the international centre, with respect to titles of "minor importance", simply a shortened entry consisting of the ISSN + key-title + centre code + country code + start date. N.B.: it had also been suggested to indicate, by means of a code or asterisk, either publications with an international audience or publications of no real value. But it was decided that it would be better to await the results of ongoing studies on the Target Audience Code (TAC)(2) involving Nigeria and the Federal Republic of Germany together with ten or so national libraries. At present it is sufficient to assign a place for the TAC in the ISDS format;

(2) to record shortened entries in field 022 through the indicator "1" while retaining full entries on ISDS national files;

(3) to refrain from considering any form of dissemination which might publicly imply a value judgement. Such an eventuality is therefore ruled out. Nevertheless, the international centre will make its cumulative register available to all interested national centres.

Lastly, the national centres are requested to advise the international centre of their criteria for shortened entries.

After six years' experience and two years of serious study, the ISDS authorities have adopted a pragmatic approach which makes a number of fine distinctions and has the considerable advantage of enabling the first principles of UBC to be observed:

every serial "may" be assigned an ISSN; the aim of complete bibliographic coverage is thus preserved;

the national centres are free to assign a rank-ordering to publications, so long as they do not turn down user requests: this arrangement ensures that the independence of the national agencies, which is the foundation of UBC and all international co-operation, is respected at all times.

Furthermore, the national centres are clearly encouraged to observe, as far as possible, the practices and customs of the official bibliography. This means that they both number (whether in an abbreviated form or not) at least those titles contained in the bibliography and lay the foundations for a good understanding with those who are responsible for national bibliographic control. However, is there not a danger that this approach will reduce the possibilities of diversifying the means of gathering serials data? One thing is certain: in no circumstances should the ISDS national centres increase the degree of selection, if any, practised by the bibliographic centre.

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(1) English version, p. 11, paragraph 3.1.

(2) Level code.

Such a development had become necessary by the time the experimental phase ended for many ISDS national centres. However, was it not suggested by the practices of centres operating during the 1972-1977 period?

In this respect, too, the questionnaires afford a more accurate picture of the current situation.

Out of the 46 national centres chosen on account of their effective contact with the international centre, 14 did not reply to the survey questionnaires and 2 passed over the question under consideration:

admittedly, 9(1) of these centres have been established quite recently (1977/1978), which accounts for their failure to reply to the questionnaires. Nevertheless, they could have made a useful contribution by stating their position, even if only in theoretical terms. Certainly, the majority did not express, as we have seen,(2) any wish to exclude any particular kind of publication from their bibliography. However, it would be rash to read too much into such facts;

the other five national centres have been established longer. We would merely note that, out of Norway, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, Norway alone has a highly selective bibliography. The Cuban and Mongolian centres are attached to the Moscow regional centre and probably operate on the same basis as that centre;

India and Czechoslovakia did not reply on this point: no publications are excluded from the Indian bibliography out of hand. The explanations given with regard to Cuba and Mongolia also apply to Czechoslovakia.

Thirty national centres which were operational in 1977 replied on this point. They may be divided as follows:

nine centres (30 per cent) favour ISDS registration for all serials.

This reply was predictable in the case of Colombia, France, Nigeria, the Philippines and Tunisia whose national bibliographic agencies have a similar aim.

On the other hand, unlike their respective bibliographies, the Finnish and Malaysian national centres aim at achieving complete control. Lastly, while Argentina and Australia have adopted the principle of complete coverage for their ISDS centres, neither country implements such a policy in actual practice. The Argentine centre is prevented from doing so by various material difficulties; the reason, in the case of Australia, is that it follows the guidance of the bibliographic agency.

Most of the centres (21 out of 30) operate a more or less rigorous system of selection based on a variety of considerations:

in the case of the Austrian national centre, which has recently been established, there is merely a declaration of intent. Italy does not state the limits of its selection system;

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(1) Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Senegal, Spain.

(2) cf. Chapter 1.2 , pp. 48-52.

on the other hand, two national centres explicitly follow the selection made by their serials bibliographies. Poland and Sweden do not register publishers' serials. Furthermore, the Polish national centre states that more specific rules are under consideration;

three national centres state that they apply the "ISDS criteria". Ireland and the USSR make no observation in this respect, but New Zealand refers to the "May 1976" meeting(1) and lists publications which are not registered: publications of ephemeral interest, letters of societies, titles emanating from local associations, etc.;

three other national centres give priority to the assignment of ISSN to titles recorded by the systems with which they are associated, union catalogues, networks and abstracting services:

the German Democratic Republic intends to restrict systematic registration to serials accepted by ASRPI;(2)

Brazil is primarily influenced by the Guidelines for the national union catalogues issued by IBICT;(3)

Indonesia assigns ISSN primarily to learned periodicals handled by the National Indexing Service.

Ten national centres state that a selection system is operated specifically for ISDS. In the case of four of these centres, this approach contrasts with the aims of the national bibliographic agency which seeks complete control.

On this basis, the various countries concerned may be divided into two groups:

(a) countries where the ISDS national centre is selective and the bibliographic agency operates a system of complete control:

Hungary: the ISDS national centre does not register titles of ephemeral of local interest;

Japan: the national centre does not register titles of ephemeral or local interest; nor does it register newspapers or annual or irregular publications handled by the National Diet Library as monographs;

Singapore: the national centre does not register titles of ephemeral interest. Example: company reports;

Thailand: the Thai national centre does not assign ISSN to titles of ephemeral interest. Example: television programme guides, theatre programmes, comic papers, etc.;

(b) countries where publications are selected at one and the same time for the ISDS national centres and the national bibliography, although at two different levels:

the Federal Republic of Germany: the national centre registers "scientific" titles and titles of general interest only;

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(1) Meeting of national centre directors held in London.
(2) ASRPI: "Automated Serials Registration System" in Comecon countries.
(3) IBICT: Instituto Brazileiro de Informacao em Ciência e Tecnologia.

Bulgaria: the national centre handles only those titles of national or international interest;

Canada: the ISDS national centre generally excludes more titles than the "Canadiana". The Canadians consider the number of serials published in Canada excessive and, in addition to official publications and internal reports which are left out of the "Canadiana", the ISDS national centre excludes publishers' collections and titles of ephemeral or merely local interest;

Denmark: along the same lines as the "Canadiana", the Danish national centre excludes various titles in addition to those excluded from the Danish national bibliography;

Israel: ISSN are only assigned systematically to serials in Hebrew which are of international interest;

United Kingdom: the ISDS national centre generally follows the level of selection practised by the British National Bibliography. However, it only assigns ISSN to numbered series or series not emanating from institutions;

Lastly, a special situation exists in the United States. On the one hand, there is no national bibliography and links with the Copyright Office are extremely loose. On the other hand, in 1972, it was decided to introduce ISDS registration for all serials, regardless of whether scientific or non-scientific titles were involved.

However, a de facto form of selection was soon introduced so as to exclude titles of ephemeral interest and near-print material consisting of circulars, telephone directories, calendars, catalogues, etc. However, the range of titles excluded from registration is in reality wider. The systematic assignment of ISSN is closely dependent on CONSER and hence on the joint policies of the three national libraries (Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine and National Agricultural Library) and their current cataloguing. We should also note that the NSDP does not assign an ISSN to unnumbered series, unless this is expressly requested by another centre.

An examination of the information extracted from the questionnaire confirms both the urgent need for and the moderation of the guidelines set out by the ISDS authorities. These guidelines, which manage to avoid both disorder and a state of paralysis, are designed to deal with the specific problems of the national centres. They are evidently fulfilling their task quite effectively since:

no national centre rejects out of hand the idea of assigning an ISSN to all serials. However, most centres consider that this is a utopian aim and that it would be irrealistic to increase the workload of the national centres and the international centre. Consequently, numerous national centres have sought limited but realistic forms of selection.

Shortened-entry registration solves the problem to some extent:

not even those national centres which support the registration of all serials raise any objections to such an arrangement since it does not hinder the assignment of ISSN;

this code facilitates the establishment of an order of priority, which has already been outlined in a number of places.

A number of examples of this order of priority are given below:

the Federal Republic of Germany:

(a) requests from the international centre, national centres, publishers and other users including the ICSU-AB;

(b) titles recorded in the "Verzeichnis Deutscher Wissenschaftliches Zeitschriften";

(c) the Bowker selection;

(d) new scientific and technical titles of the Deutsche Bibliothek;

N.B. In general, for titles published since 1971, priority is given to the registration of scientific, technical, medical, legal, economic and social publications;

the United States:

(a) requests from other national centres and publishers, particularly of scientific and technical publications;

(b) current cataloguing of the three national libraries (LC, NAL, NLM);

(c) abstracting services;

(d) CONSER requirements;

Japan: the Japanese national centre operates on a chronological basis and first registers, within the limits set out above, serials published since 1 April 1975 when it became operational. It then registers new titles published between 1971 and 1974. For the time being, the handling of pre-1971 serials is not being considered in general terms.

the United Kingdom:

requests from abstracting services;

requirements of the British National Bibliography since 1974;

furthermore, there is nothing to prevent the comparatively large number of centres wishing to do so from enlisting the co-operation of their respective national bibliographic agencies. This is happening in the case of eight centres (in Australia, Colombia, France, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Sweden and Tunisia).

Moreover, some centres currently use the indicator of local or ephemeral interest developed at the Washington and Moscow meetings. Since June 1977 the national centres in Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany have come into this category with the three national centres (Ireland, New Zealand and the USSR) referred to above. In all probability, this category should also include the national centres which have notified their selection criteria according to the wishes of the international centres since August 1977: Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Hungary, Japan, Nigeria, United Kingdom and the United States, that is, practically half (11-30) the national centres operational in the period under consideration.

A brief comparison of the stated criteria (cf. table below) calls for a number of observations.

ANNEX

TABLE OF SELECTION CRITERIA OF ISDS NATIONAL CENTRES
PREPARED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

COUNTRY	Categories of Serials to which an ISSN is systematically assigned		Serials not registered unless registration is expressly requested. Observations
	Full-entry registration	Shortened-entry registration	
ARGENTINA	- Publications containing "scientific" articles relating to science and technology, economics, the social sciences and the humanities.	- Local titles bearing upon a town or a village. Bulletins or publications of firms or commercial associations of local interest. - Publications providing historical, statistical or economic information serving as a source for other serials.	- Although no publications are excluded in theory, practical considerations necessitate some selection.
AUSTRALIA	a) Titles containing the results of original research. b) Titles analysed by abstracting services. c) Titles of social, scientific or technological importance.	- Shortened-entry registration applies to all titles recorded in the national bibliography since 1976 which do not meet the criteria for full entry. (the same policy applies to requests from the International Centre,	Titles not included in the national bibliography. Although the Australian national centre would prefer to register all serials, it follows the guidance of the NBA.

	d) Titles concerning Australian Government proceedings (official publications). e) Titles dealing with industrial or agricultural matters. f) All titles specifically concerning Australia: aborigenes, political parties.	other national centres or publishers).
CANADA		- Titles of local interest: TV guides, advertising (advertising newspapers/etc...). - Discontinued periodicals unless they are of historical importance. - Publishers' collections. - Titles excluded from Canadiana (internal reports, university calendars, theatre programmes, etc....)
DENMARK		- Titles of ephemeral interest. - Titles of local interest.

FRANCE		- Editions of newspapers other than first editions. - Company newspapers. - Magazines. - Strip cartoons, children's periodicals. - Parish, trade-union, municipal and association bulletins. - Advertising newspapers, entertainment guides. - Newspapers dealing with sport, or with cookery	No serials are excluded from registration
GERMANY (Federal Republic of)	- Scientific serials (in the strict sense of the term): a) Science. b) Scientific literature. c) Findings of scientific research. - Non-scientific serials: a) containing research findings, b) of general, cultural or literary interest, c) of political interest, d) aimed at popularization.		No other details provided.

HUNGARY	- All editions of daily and weekly national newspapers. - Official publications. - Scientific, political, literary and art journals and publications devoted to popularization. - Yearbooks, general and professional almanacs. - Lists of bibliographic periodicals relating to the following fields: national bibliographies, union catalogues, national yearbooks and yearbooks of Associations; National, regional and municipal statistics - - Proceedings of congresses. - "Scientific" series (in the broad meaning of the term).	- Any serial of national interest recorded in the bibliography which does not fall into any of the categories in the column opposite.	- Publications of ephemeral interest. - Publications of local interest.
JAPAN	The following serials are registered: - As a rule, serials of national or international scientific value contained in the "Catalogue of Japanese Periodicals of the Library of the National Assembly", 1975. - and its quarterly supplements. - publishers' requests.	- Titles of local interest (no other details).	- Annual serials. - Irregular serials. - Newspapers.

NIGERIA	As the ISDS authorities have recommended the registration of as wide a range as possible of serials in developing countries and countries with a small publishing output, there is no selection in Nigeria. However, the order of priority shown in the following list is adopted: a) All new titles. b) Publishers' requests for ISSN. c) Requests from the International Centre and national centres. d) Nigerian titles listed in the Bowker publications. e) Newspapers. f) Official publications. g) Titles published since 1971. h) Other publications. In the case of the latter, priority is given to titles of international importance.	None - - The national centre follows the recommendation referred to in the column opposite. - Furthermore, the national centre has decided to register all serials.

SWEDEN	- Publications of general interest. - Scientific, economic, political and religious publications; literary and art journals. - Yearbooks of general interest published by an institution. - Bibliographies; union catalogues. - National statistics. - Publishers' collections, if they fall into these categories.	No details available.	No details available.
UNITED KINGDOM	- Titles of scientific interest and titles containing research which may be covered by abstracting services. - Titles containing commercial or technical information: "technical" reports, including those emanating from firms. - Titles containing bibliographic information (abstracts, lists of accessions, union catalogues, etc..) - Titles publishing statistics. - University yearbooks. - National newspapers. - Publications of important associations. - ISDS base file inputs. - Requests from other ISDS centres.	- Titles outside the framework of category 1 for which ISSN are expressly requested or which come within the scope of the British National Bibliography. - Publications of associations of local interest. - Company newspapers. - Popular magazines (Example: sports magazines).	- Publications of associations only containing membership lists, agendas, etc. - Local newspapers. - Children's papers, pop papers, etc. - Pornographic publications, etc. - Publishers' collections.

UNITED STATES	- Titles handled by the abstracting services. - Titles contained in the ISDS base file. - Requests from other national centres. - Titles forming part of the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.	- Local newspapers. - Titles classified as being below the level of the high-school diploma. - Documents of minor importance emanating from the States and municipal documents. - Titles not held by the Library of Congress.	Unnumbered series.

There is a need for a standardized detailed presentation of the different categories:

(a) serials registered with a full entry;

(b) serials registered with a shortened entry;

(c) serials which are merely registered on user request.

There is a need for an understanding on terminology; this aspect may represent one of the ISDS's significant contributions to universal bibliographic control. The table has a number of gaps which give a fair idea of terminological inadequacies. Each country merely lists the types of publication registered or not registered, often incompletely, while taking care not to define them.

The ISDS authorities note, lastly, that bottlenecks only threaten countries in which a vast quantity of printed material is produced. In the case of the other countries, UBC ensures the most extensive possible collection of data on national serials identified through the legal-deposit system or any other channel.

However, some have expressed the fear that the ISDS national centres will be swamped by the large volume of requests for ISSN even though the number of requests has been reduced by shortened-entry registration. Consequently, they have considered the feasibility of tolerating or even recognizing (so as not to discourage potential users or check the expansion of the system) another system of numbering which would be parallel to the ISSN, have the same structure as the latter and be capable of replacing it temporarily in data-processing operations. This is the "Pseudo-ISSN" system. Very few references were made to the subject in the returned questionnaires. This may be easily explained: very few ISDS centres have gone beyond the experimental stage and also have computers at their disposal. However, several centres made their views known, concerned as they were by the demands made by automation (the case of Sweden with regard to LIBRIS, or of Hungary or Israel with regard to their bibliographies). In many cases, centres were urged to put their views forward by important clients such as the Postal and Telecommunications Service in Bulgaria and the United States which had become impatient with the system. This subject has been the centre of considerable discussion at the various ISDS meetings. Even if the question seems, at present, to be in the process of being settled, the nature of the ideas exchanged still provides a useful illustration of the problems involved.

In point of fact, the question of "pseudo-ISSN" is quite separate from the "shortened-entry" code - with which there is a tendency to confuse it; the idea is simply to avoid overloading the International Register and, at the same time, to avoid prejudicing the registration policy adopted by the ISDS national centres. It is really a question of how to deal with the great number of requests largely concerning publications which are discontinued or do not fit into the normal numbering scheme of any given centre. A common policy should be followed on this point and should be explained to clients so as to avoid them becoming discouraged with the system.

Should the assignment of a kind of pre-ISSN be authorized?

If so, should the national centres control its structure?

If not, should a kind of "plea in bar" be put in, by recommending the use of internal processing numbers?

Most of the centres take the view that on matters such as these the wisest course is to refrain from action. This may be the case. However, if the term "pseudo-ISSN" is dismissed out of hand as being unreliable and disruptive would an "IPN" (internal processing number) be more favourably received? How, in fact, could the ISDS dissociate itself from the frequent problems of centres which are closely linked with the national bibliographic agency and are involved in setting up data bases or union catalogues. The failure of the ISDS to participate could restrict the appeal of the ISSN to users and bring about the re-establishment of parallel systems.

Can the ISDS refuse to undertake retrospective numbering in a distant future? Arguments in favour of such a move are impressive, but the risks prevail over the advantages:

if the "pseudo-ISSN" are controlled by ISDS centres, why not take the time to assign authentic ISSN to the publications in question?

if the numbers are assigned by users, how is it possible to prevent their being printed and disseminated and so receiving the same stamp of authority as the ISSN?

This question has not yet been settled by the competent ISDS authorities. However, the centres are generally reticent about the quasi-official stamp given to these pre-ISSN. The system will probably move in the following direction:

proceeding with the widest possible form of numbering, including retrospective numbering;

advising users who urgently need to assign numbers to publications or very large users that they may avail themselves of "internal numbers" and even publish them if this is necessary in order to maintain consistency in their range of publications;

these temporary numbers will under no circumstances be printed on the serial.

(b) NC and NC projects: order of priority

As the ISDS system is a major innovation in the field of serials, it was worth while devoting some time, firstly, to its conception of universal bibliographic control and, now, to the consideration of the more or less immediate projects of the centres which will perhaps confirm this conception.

According to the replies to the questionnaire, all the centres wish to receive specific products such as a national serials list or file, if possible automated. However, they fail to indicate the desired degree of bibliographic coverage, namely whether new titles or all current titles should be covered. Nine national centres(1) seem to incline to the second alternative. Others hope that their work will be conducive to improvements in the control of future serials (Finland, Indonesia, Italy, Nigeria, United Kingdom, United States). In the same way, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Hungary, Japan and Sweden state that automation is a priority. Australia, France, Indonesia and the United States also expect that relations with publishers will be facilitated. Other subjects such as title abbreviations, automated union catalogues, the establishment of a serials information centre, and the compatibility of cataloguing procedures and retrospective numbering are each considered to be important issues by three or four centres on average.

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(1) Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan.

Besides the specific day-to-day work of a national centre, which 50 per cent of the centres consider to be of primary importance, the various projects are centred to a greater or lesser degree on the bibliographic control of serials and enter into the specialized field of action of the national bibliographies. Is this a cause of rivalry between the ISDS national centres and the NBA? Or is it an additional reason for their association in the sense that their aims are seen to be complementary?

On this point the replies are strikingly unanimous: all, namely ISDS national centres and national bibliographic agencies, wish to improve the level of co-operation between them. Such agreement without the slightest note of dissent is suspicious. It would accordingly be useful to consider the image which the national bibliographic agencies and the ISDS national centres have of their respective roles.

5.2 Roles of the national bibliographic agencies and the ISDS network

From the material forming the basis of this study it is possible to gain a broad idea of the functions of the NBA and the ISDS in the handling of serials.

(a) At national level

The NBA and the ISDS national centres often combine forces on serials data collection. The fact that the ISDS national centre offers publishers a product which can be used immediately and which has obvious advantages, encourages the latter to deposit publications and contribute to the development of the national bibliography. This relationship is improved by direct contacts between the national centre and the publishers. Furthermore, the NBA can take advantage of the appeal which standardized numbering has for the publishing trade and call for the introduction of a compulsory ISSN statement in the legal-deposit declaration. This is already the practice in Belgium, Spain and the United States. Numerous other countries, including France, are thinking along these lines. Lastly, the establishment of ISSN agencies would have an excellent effect on the serials publishing world which is badly organized to a degree. There is unanimous agreement on all these aspects. Argentina, however, is of the opinion that if the national bibliography is inadequate, the ISDS national centres will be hindered in the performance of their task, if not paralysed. Furthermore, Finland and Hungary, like France, take the view that the ISDS national centre provides opportunities for "tracking down" titles which would otherwise not be discovered by a search. In this sense, it completes the bibliography.

National bibliographic agencies and ISDS national centres also join forces to promote serials standardization in their country. However, they operate in different fields. The NBA is concerned with description, the ISDS with identification. While a clear distinction is now made between these functions, for a long time they were confused. This confusion led to the various well-known complications and had a detrimental effect on the cataloguing codes. The questionnaire replies provide very little information on these matters. However, the division is clearly there: cataloguing rules are the prerogative of the NBA, while the business of identifying and recording titles seems to come within the province of the ISDS. In particular, however, national centres, such as Hungary, point to a major contribution made by the system: the definition of a serial and a useful study of the concept with a view to its international dissemination.

There are various more specific yet equally important points with regard to which the establishment of the ISDS represents a considerable innovation. Firstly, we may refer to the standardized presentation of serials in material terms in library catalogues, bibliographies and citations, as a result of the key-title and the ISSN. France rightly plans to adopt the key-title as the heading in Supplement I of the Bibliographie. Argentina takes the view that citations will be more reliable and so take some of the arbitrariness out of the work of librarians and documentalists and the consultation of specialized bibliographies. In particular, the ISDS will have a definite influence on the design of title pages. Furthermore, Standard ISO R/30 is currently being revised. In this context, the system is still too recent for any prediction to be made as to all the changes to which it will give rise. This accounts for the comparative lack of information given in the questionnaires. As very few of the anticipated advantages have as yet been realized, it is difficult to form an idea of future benefits and many centres are aware only of the problems involved.

We should also refer to all the various users of the ISDS and the national bibliographies: libraries, documentation services, abstracting services and publishers for whom serials represent both an essential tool and the elusive material with which they work. In this respect, too, ISDS has not been established long enough for all its effects to develop. However, the most likely outcomes are beginning to emerge: union catalogues with ISSN and key-titles, the management of subscriptions and the control of new issues, a search key for documentalists, standardized citations, etc. These represent so many new possibilities and potential development is immense. Unfortunately, it was premature, at the time the survey was conducted, to attempt a brief analysis of such developments.

Returning to the relations between the national bibliographies and the ISDS, the most common feeling was that ISDS has a backward and a forward linkage with the national bibliography, for in the first case, it processes information faster than the bibliographic agency and is connected to the CIP system;(1) in the second case, the ISDS records also provide a means of updating the national bibliography.

(b) The international role of the ISDS Register and the national bibliographies

According to the Guidelines, the ISDS should enter information into its files in print form and machine-readable form.

For financial reasons, and with a view to easier maintenance, the international centre has given up the use of printed publications. It has left this means of distribution to the national centres and opted for the use of microfiches. The first edition of the ISDS Register came out in December 1977: the records are classified in ISSN order and contain essential data on magnetic tape. They are accompanied by an ISSN index since the register is composed of several chronological sections and an alphabetical index of key-titles and other title forms.

Such a product is obviously an indispensable tool for serials identification. This first version is still open to improvement. It is planned to make the index clearer by distinguishing key-titles from other titles.

The international community has welcomed this first world serials data base. It will be periodically updated and in the meantime the ISDS Bulletin will provide information on the system. The 50,000 titles registered in 1977 were to be increased to 80,000 by the end of 1978. However, there is still no "serials information office" either at the international centre or at national centres which are, however, considering the establishment of such an office.

Accordingly, many organizations, libraries and documentation centres would be interested in acquiring the complete file for a variety of reasons, particularly for union catalogues. The marketing of the machine-readable form is hampered by copyright problems. At the meeting of ISDS/NC directors, a working group was set up to study this subject. The working group was due to report on its findings at the end of 1978. A decision on this question would be welcomed by all concerned: approximately 50 per cent of the Register comes from five bases(1) which are protected by copyright to a greater or lesser degree. Unless the legal question is settled, the ISDS will not only lose a fairly substantial additional revenue, but will see its influence questioned if magnetic tapes cannot be fully utilized by the national centres or serve the various automated systems.

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(1) Cataloguing-in-Publication.

However, such a case is not unique. National library interchange comes up against the same obstacle. The British Library decided to place very strict conditions on the use of its input. In the United States, the position is just the opposite. The Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada exchange tapes without charge. Each library may modify content and format as it pleases and is free to distribute any products developed. By contrast, the Library of Congress and the British Library charge each other for exchanging their tapes. Other similar cases are to be found.

In point of fact, this situation seems to be at variance with the idea of universal bibliographic control and restrictive clauses should be banned. This question is, furthermore, extremely worrying to developing countries. They fear that one day legal provisions may compel them to purchase foreign tapes of national bibliographies, if the Library of Congress's redistribution right were contested. The Americans maintain, furthermore, that any tape purchased or received under an interchange scheme by them, will be converted in the sense that LC specifications, classification, etc. will be entered onto it and it will therefore be negotiable in this new form.

While the thorny question of copyright holds back the dissemination of the bibliographies and the ISDS, their work on international standardization may be given free rein. Thus, a better understanding has been gained of the notion of a "serial". The ISDS network and the ISBD(S) have both experienced rapid development and expansion. However, certain reservations have become evident: while the need to avoid any "holding back" prevails, a number of countries, particularly non-European countries, in some cases find the ISBD(S) and the ISDS too complex. They would very much like to see some progress made in the areas of transliteration, classification and the target audience code. The national bibliographies and the ISDS have fostered the ISO work on transliteration;(2) the study on the target audience of publications is being carried out by ten or so very different national libraries. On the point of classification, the library world is still very much divided. However, the pressure brought to bear by the scientific community through systems such as the ISDS should produce positive results in the very near future.

The survey gives a clear picture of the profoundly complementary nature of the national and international roles of the NBA and the ISDS with reference to three centres of interest, namely the collection, standardization and dissemination of serials data.

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(1) CASSI, CNRS, INSPEC, BIOSIS, Geological Abstracts.

(2) Cyrillic, Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese characters, etc.

CONCLUSION

At each point in this study of the way the NBA and the ISDS fulfil their functions, the underlying features of their relations have been adumbrated, providing a basis on which to draw a number of conclusions and identify certain factors affecting future development trends.

It matters little whether they join forces or operate side by side. They are necessarily associated in the sense that they draw upon the same sources (publishers and the legal-deposit system) and pursue the same goal (serials control). There is no reason to fear any rivalry in this field; if there is any emulation, it serves to increase the efficiency of the systems. Far from going against the rules of logic, the fact that there is no complete correspondence between the procedures used justifies the separate existences of the NBA and the ISDS.

According to the principles of UBC, the main objective of the national bibliographic agencies and the ISDS is to register general bibliographic information on serials obtained from a national base. However, the ISDS, which is a two-tiered system, offers a way of improving co-operation between the NBA and abstracting and indexing services which are responsible for organizing the international control of specialized information for the scientific community. If these simultaneous developments were not firmly interlinked by a common desire for co-operation, we would be faced with the redoubtable prospect of a complete breakdown of interchange followed by general disorder, in addition to the numerous responsibilities which would soon become unbearable for the poorer nations.

Aware of these risks, the authorities are now concentrating on tailoring their products more successfully to specific needs, over and above their efforts to standardize cataloguing procedures and computer facilities.

All the innovations in the field of serials data collection have given rise to controversies but they have also provided much food for thought. Some theorists have questioned whether a currently published serial can be described "in bibliographical terms". They have put out the revolutionary idea that it suffices to create a practical tool to detect the existence of a serial and systematically record the relevant particulars. In this context, the ISBD(S) would be unnecessary or its use would be confined to national bibliographies and international interchange. The accurate reproduction of the title-page information would no longer be necessary. We should briefly consider this universal serials record which is eagerly awaited by the majority of libraries and documentation centres.

It would contain essential data in an agreed order:

key-title (ISDS);

name of issuing body (in an internationally recognized form);

year, volume, start date;

frequency;

physical description;

background notes;

other notes;

ISSN;

classification;

target audience code.

These elements could be completed, at will, by processing particulars and details on the location and state of series. As this arrangement obviously ties in with the ISDS, this part of the serials handling process would be closely dependent on the work of the national centres. This factor would complicate relations with the NBA.

While such theories, considerably influenced by automated handling, appear futuristic, the type of search which they imply meets a real need on the part of the personnel working in these fields, as may be seen from the following examples.

Firstly, the AACR editors state that they have provided for three levels of completeness for records. The most concise level takes the following form:

title proper/first statement of responsibility - edition statement;

start date, volume, issue no. - first commercial publisher - physical description - notes - ISSN.

Similarly, the CMEA countries, desirous of integrating the ISBD(S) into the different national systems, have established an abbreviated form intended for medium-sized and small libraries and documentation centres. Lastly, we should refer to a British project with the widest of implications which has recently been set afoot. This is CASCADE (Content And Sources of CAtaloguing Data for local usE), which is essentially an attempt to determine which elements of a record are perceived by the reader and how he understands them. With their "functional and perceptual study", those carrying out the CASCADE project are undoubtedly making a valuable contribution to the field by calling attention to the fact that products and services primarily have to meet the needs of consumers and clients.

Such a trend is by no means fortuitous. A similar effort is directed not towards mere simplification but towards the achievement of compatibility between machine-readable forms from different bibliographic systems. In 1978, a symposium on interchange formats was held in Sicily. It took note of the situation, considered the wishes of each participant and made a number of proposals. Until then no format had been developed outside the context of its specific application:

UNISIST Reference Manual

This manual was published in 1974. It is a cross between the interchange format and the cataloguing manual. It was designed for "abstracting and indexing services" and is unknown to libraries. It represents an extremely pragmatic approach and includes certain features borrowed from the AACR cataloguing rules.

UNIMARC

As we have seen, UNIMARC was published in 1977 and is designed to reconcile the numerous members of the "MARC family". In particular, it covers bibliographic interchange among NBA and reflects European and North American cataloguing methods.

ISDS

Unlike the UNISIST Manual and UNIMARC, ISDS is concerned merely with serials and only includes information on identification.

MEKOF -2

This is the interchange format of the CMEA countries. It dates from 1977 and conforms to ISO 2709 and the UNISIST Guidelines.

There is no real compatibility between these manuals and formats. Certainly, all the essential elements are identifiable and distinguishable. However, the form and content of these elements in the various fields differ. Rather than develop expensive format conversion programmes, it would seem more useful to construct an all-embracing format structure along the lines of the UNIMARC process.

This structure will form an interchange format which is acceptable to the great majority of computer personnel in the sense that it matches their requirements and practices. The format will start with the "bibliographic data authority list". It will involve a definition for each aggregate and its components.

Example: Author

also: Name, first name, title, etc.

Each time the meaning is likely to become ambiguous, separate fields are created.

Example: With regard to "parallel title", a term which is generally understood, there is no difficulty.

However, there will be:

one field for: title proper

one field for: the title as it appears on the title page.

All these data will be entered into predetermined fields and subfields designed with a view to aiding the recognition of elements and subelements.

This development, which is advantageous to all concerned, will also encourage developing countries to make an effort to introduce automation. They will no longer have to use different procedures to obtain access to information systems or enjoy the benefits of bibliographic data networks.

The reason for referring to such projects at the end of this report is that they will determine the very future of the relations between NBA and the ISDS and deserve consideration in so far as they introduce various new factors into the handling of serials.